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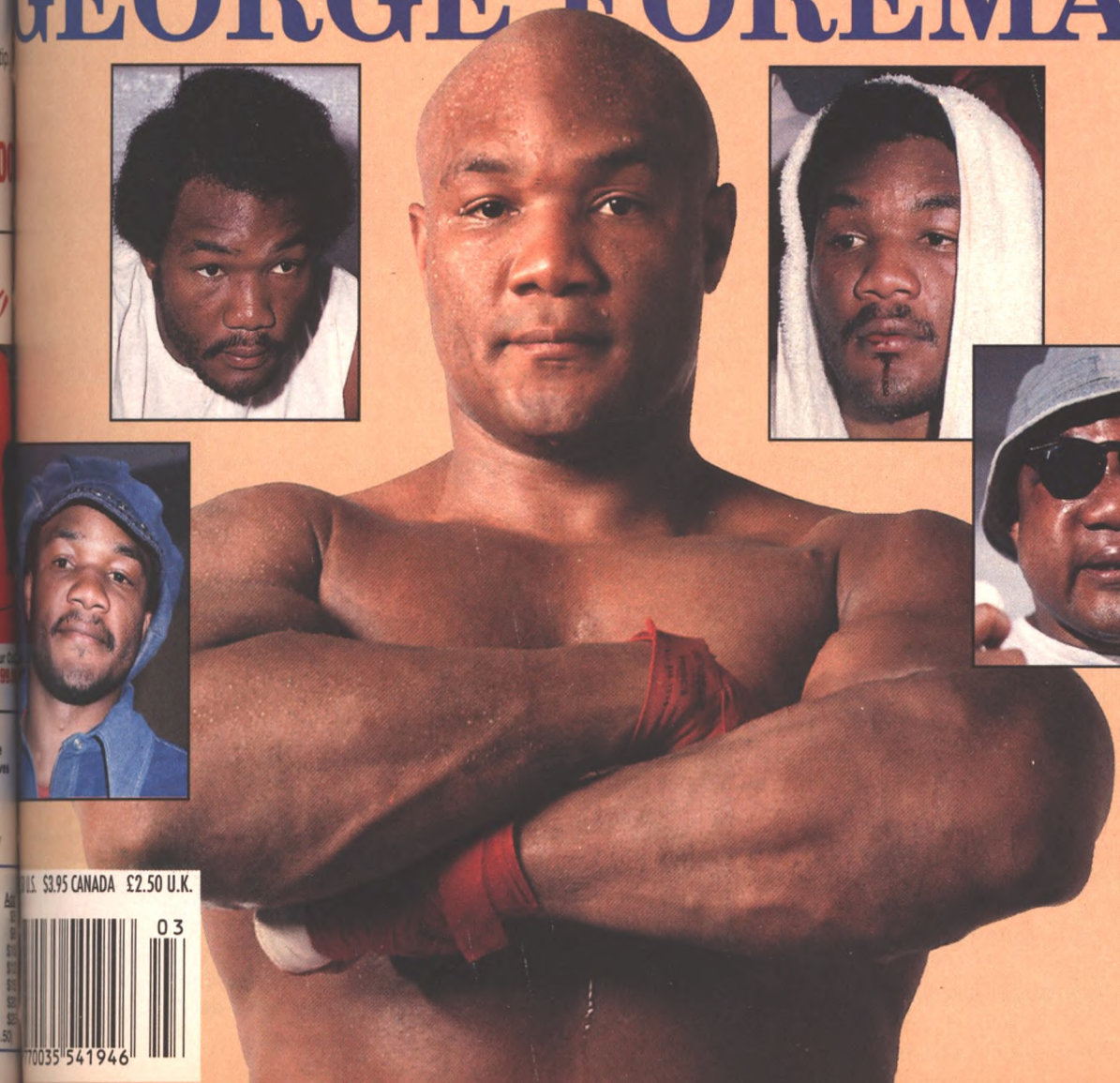

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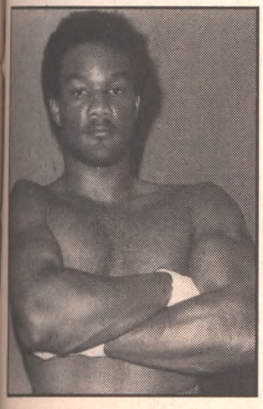

Cover photos by Marc Morrison, Ralph Merlino, Theo Ehret, and Holly Stein/Allsport

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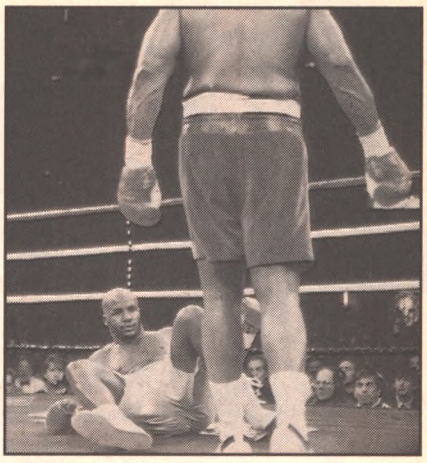

Photo by Anthony Neste/HBO

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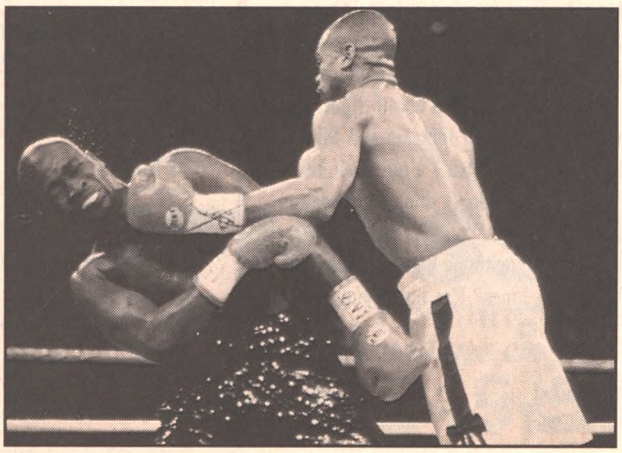

Photo by Will Hart/HBO

RINGSIDE

Three weekends in November gave us three superfights: George Foreman KO 10 Michael Moorer, Chiquita Gonzalez W 12 Michael Carbajal, and Roy Jones W 12 James Toney. (At one point I had to pinch myself as a reminder that boxing was in a prolonged slump.) I'm not going to address Gonzalez-Carbajal, which, if you saw the fight, you're grateful for. But Foreman-Moorer and Jones-Toney revealed as much about the state of the game as they did about the winners and losers.

Big George's appeal is both unique and universal. In finally exorcising the ghost of Muhammad Ali, he has, like "The Greatest" before him, become an icon. Both Ali and Foreman are fighters of their time, with the latter as perfect a fit for the Home Shopping Network as the former was for the CBS evening news. On November 5, George the Huckster was selling miracles. His 10th-round right cross served as a reminder of why the heavyweights, so often slow and dull and without a discernible pulse, will always fascinate us. It would be nice if Foreman pocketed the spoils and moved on to something a bit less strenuous, like adding to his millions by endorsing hamburger makers. However, that isn't going to happen. Let's applaud George for his magical moment, but also acknowledge that he's a 46-year-old fighter who is painfully easy to hit. Foreman has nothing left to prove, except that he learned from the mistake Ali made in fighting too long.

As for Jones-Toney, what does it say about boxing's star-making process that for the showdown that was billed as fight of the year, there were half as many press credential requests as for Foreman-Moorer? Before "The Uncivil War," Jones-Toney was compared to Leonard-Hearns I. Sorry, but by the time they unified the welterweight title, Hearns and especially Leonard were celebrities who transcended the squared circle. Conversely, before November 18, a handful of non-boxing fans knew of Toney, and only the hard-core had been keeping up with Jones.

None of that, of course, minimizes Jones' accomplishment, which, considering the quality of opposition, was as masterful a big-fight performance as I've seen in my 16 years at ringside. I won't deny that Toney would have been more of a threat had he not reduced from 210 to 167 pounds, or perhaps more significantly, gained about 15 pounds between the weigh-in and the opening bell. But make no mistake: The outcome was the result of Jones' brilliance far more than Toney's shortcomings.

In 1995, the second reign of Foreman and the second run of Mike Tyson are going to dominate the headlines. The heavyweights will again hog the press, the rest of the fight world be damned. In one sense, this is a good thing. In another, it's too bad. Whatever spotlight the first fight of the Gonzalez-Carbajal series brought to the junior flyweight division has long since burned out. Welterweight Pernell Whitaker and super middleweight Jones, inarguably the best fighters in the world, have no one to fight. One writer, citing David vs. Goliath matches like Stanley Ketchel-Jack Johnson and Mickey Walker-Jack Sharkey, even suggested Jones challenge Foreman. That's a bit harsh, but it just might be the only way he can maintain his momentum. I don't think a mandatory defense against Tony Byrd is going to energize the masses.

By the way, don't miss next month's issue. It'll be the one with the Fighter of the Year on the cover. Will Big George be the winner? Will it be Jones? I'm not saying. But I promise it won't be both.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

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The RING

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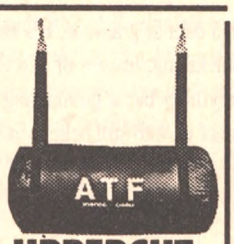

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COME OUT WRITING

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BIG GEORGE'S MIRACLE

No other sport but boxing could provide the kind of drama we saw on the evening of November 5, 1994. At first, I thought the George Foreman-Michael Moorer heavyweight title fight should never have been made. As the fighters made their way toward the ring, I was worried about the health and safety of the challenger. And as the rounds passed, with Foreman clearly losing every one of them, I just wanted the fight to conclude without Foreman getting hurt. Then, suddenly, Moorer was on his back. My friends and I nearly went through the roof. Foreman-Moorer was by no means a great fight, but it produced one of the greatest moments in boxing history.

PETER R. CORY
Kingston, Ontario

The world of boxing owes George Foreman a debt of gratitude. It's been a long time since local sportscasters have reported the outcome of a fight without snickering. Images of Big George in the Alex Stewart and Tommy Morrison fights made it difficult to predict anything but a pummeling of the former champion. As a result, Foreman's win was a feel-good victory for those of us who still believe in the sport.

THERESA RENEE OSBORNE
Forks, WA

When George Foreman overcame Michael Moorer, it was something special. But what we saw transcended boxing. We saw a man finally catch up to the haunting presence of a distant memory, and in the process show the world that if you desire something enough, regardless of how improbable it is, you can make it happen. Big George said before the fight that the memory of his loss to Muhammad Ali had been haunting him. As we all know, there's only one Ali. But now we can say that there's also only one George Foreman.

JUSTIN F. MERCADO
S. Lake Tahoe, CA

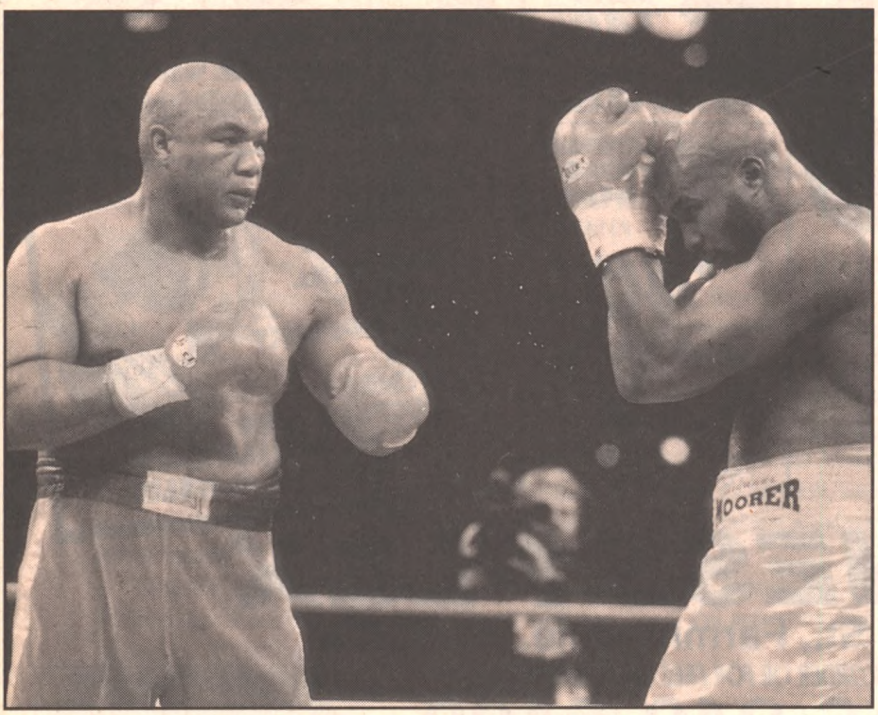


Photo by Anthony Neste/HBO

Foreman waited for his opening, then capitalized

George Foreman's knockout of Michael Moorer moves him up on the all-time list of heavyweight greats. But is his stunning victory good for boxing? I don't think so. Foreman's instantly recognizable face may bring boxing to the masses, but the flip side is his victory shows how incredibly weak today's heavyweight division is. And even so, regardless of who he fights, Foreman can't be guaranteed an easy defense because of his own weaknesses and deficiencies.

It may take *three* Mike Tysons to clean up the current mess.

BRIAN CURLEY
Brockville, Ontario

Vince Dundee was the brother of fellow world champ Joe Dundee

BROTHER, WHAT MISTAKES

In the January 1995 issue, you listed Johnny Dundee and Joe Dundee as brothers. ("It's A Family Affair: Gabe And Rafael Ruelas Meet At The Top"). In fact, welter champ Joe Dundee was the brother of middleweight champ *Vince* Dundee. Featherweight and junior lightweight champion Johnny Dundee (real name Giuseppe Carrora) was no relation.

On page 72 of the same issue, you identified a photo of Jack Johnson and Jess Willard as Johnson and Jim Jeffries. Better sharpen up.

CHARLES S. DeLUCA
Baltimore, MD

"THE ULTIMATE" COMPLIMENT

I was very impressed after reading the "New Face" feature on Paul "The Ultimate" Vaden in the Winter 1994 issue. I have been following Paul for four years and have come to know him on a personal level. I've been acquainted with several professional athletes, and not one has been more down to earth and personable than Paul.

I'm a physical educator at an inner-city school in San Diego. It was in 1990 that I first met Paul. I selfishly asked him if he'd be interested in speaking to the kids at my school, and without hesitation he replied yes. Since then he has returned on several occasions and discussed health and fitness, drugs, setting goals, and trying your best no matter what your dream may be. He's been a positive role model and has had a tremendous impact on my students.

Athletes often pass up the opportunity to speak in such a manner because they're either too busy or just not interested. Paul has taken the time to give these kids hope, desire, love, and motivation to be the best they can be. He is truly The Ultimate, both as a boxer and a person. Thanks to THE RING for choosing him as a "New Face."

DAVE HODAPP
San Diego, CA

LEGEND-IN-THE-MAKING

I love your magazine, but I was amazed and disappointed by the amount of exposure you gave to bantamweight Wayne McCullough's lucky victory over Victor Rabanales. I disagree with your decision to rate McCullough over "Prince" Naseem Hamed. Hamed would stop McCullough inside six rounds. You have failed to recognize The Prince as a sensational young fighter with power, defense, phenomenal speed, and endurance. He doesn't need a good chin because he *never* gets hit.

Watch out. This boy is going to be a legend.

JOHN F. PARTRIDGE
Surrey, England

Forget about Oscar De La Hoya and Wayne McCullough for a minute. Look further afield and see a *real* superstar in the form of British bantamweight Naseem Hamed. He is awkward and unorthodox and has great lateral movement and exceptional power. This guy is going to clean up more than one division.

COLIN McDOUGAL
Edinburgh, Scotland

THE SYSTEM STINKS!

Your three-part series, "Injuries In Boxing," was very good, but far too tempered. Maybe guys like Willie Classen and Duk Koo Kim were the lucky ones. They weren't sentenced to a life of ridicule and lost jobs and insensitive jokes about their short-term memory loss. Where are the Don Kings and Bob Arums then? They're counting their millions while the boxers they used to get rich are struggling to remember their addresses. As long as money is involved, there will always be meat-peddlers. Shame on the system!

BOB HARVEY
Moncton, New Brunswick ■

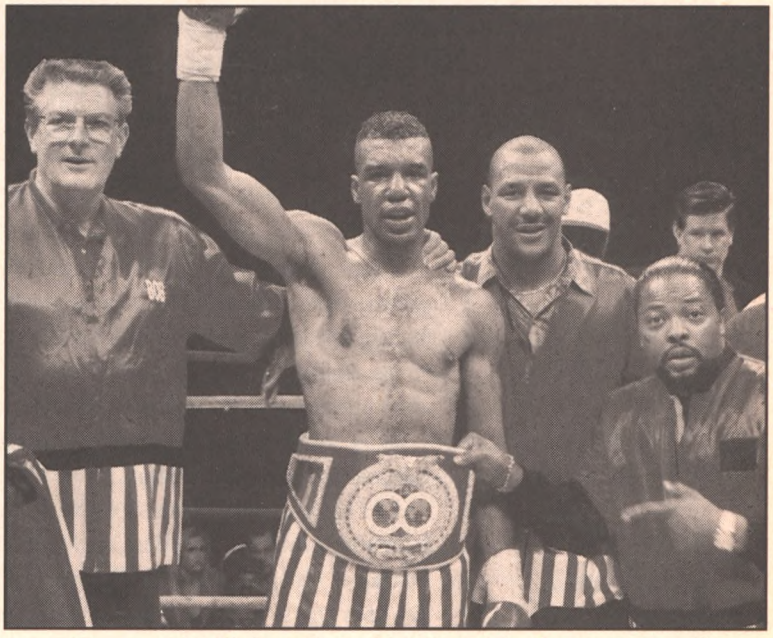


Photo by Nasser Khan/"The Fightmaster"

Paul Vaden celebrates his win over John Montes

ROUND ONE

A PUNCHER WHO WILL SCARE THE DEVIL OUT OF YOU

Father Flavio Sanchez

Forget what the law says. In 1987, when powerpunching preacher George Foreman returned to the ring, there was no separation of church and the state of unconsciousness. Big George doesn't often talk about his faith anymore, but in a different part of Texas, Father Flavio Sanchez is combining boxing and religion in a most effective manner.

The 32-year-old Sanchez, a native of Aguas Calientes, Mexico, is a priest at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Hebbronville. He also finds time to work out at the Jim Hogg County Recreation Center, where former pro Delio Palacios is the P.A.L. boxing director. Father Flavio is going to follow Foreman up the heavyweight ladder. But according to Palacios, in less than two years he's developed a punch that will "scare the devil out of you." Moreover, some of the young boxers at the gym have become altar boys at Sanchez' church.

"I made a deal with Delio," said Sanchez. "I told him if he would help me become a good boxer, I would help him become a good Catholic."

And they've both become better role models for

–Steve Farhood

Photo by Mario Tama

From left: Beau Jack, Sandy Saddler, Carmen Basilio, Kid Gavilan, Ingemar Johansson, Gene Fullmer, Bob Foster, Ken Norton, George Chuvalo, Joe Frazier, Archie Moore, Jake LaMotta, and Floyd Patterson.

WINE, WOMEN, SONG—AND BOXING

It's a power hitter's paradise, and in more ways than one. For the fifth straight year, Fight Night '94, held at the Washington Hilton and Towers in Washington, D.C., was an evening of unbridled big-shot bacchanalia, an orgy of wine, women, song, and boxing that doubled as a cash cow for children's charities.

On October 27, the movers and shakers of the Washington-area business community plunked down $300 apiece to don tuxedos and enter a dazzling ballroom of politically incorrect sensual pleasures: delectable hostesses selling $5 Uppmann cigars and providing provocative company; an open bar that flows like a river of sin; juicy, inch-and-a-half thick steaks; and a chance to not only talk deal and make contacts, but rub shoulders with some of the biggest names in boxing history.

When Joseph E. Robert Jr. founded Fight Night in 1990, he envisioned an event for his well-heeled patrons that would mix equal parts social extravaganza, live boxing, and gathering of legends. This year's show did not disappoint.

After dinner, in a ring at the center of the ballroom, the masters of boxing were introduced to thunderous applause: Sandy Saddler, Beau Jack, Kid Gavilan, Carmen Basilio, Bob Foster, George Chuvalo, Joe Frazier, Gene Fullmer, Jake LaMotta, Archie Moore, and Ken Norton, as well as Floyd Patterson and Ingemar Johansson, who were sharing a ring for the first time since the third of their historic title fight encounters. Representing today's stars were Pernell Whitaker and Simon Brown.

It was enough to give you chills.

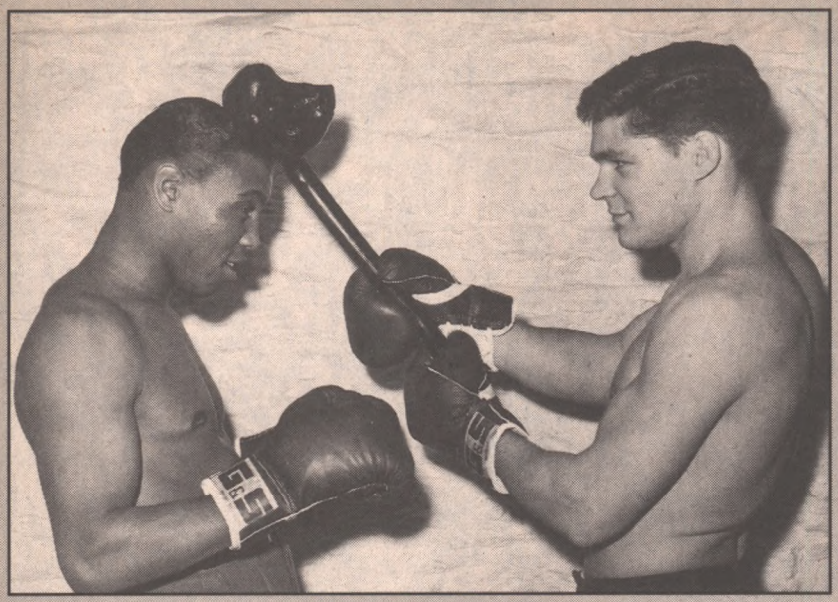
There were a few fights, too, with undefeated junior lightweight Ed Hopson outpointing veteran Troy Dorsey over 12 rounds in the main event.

The crowd of about 2,000 raised more than $300,000 for charities such as the Children's National Medical Center and Metropolitan Boys and Girls Clubs.

Get your tickets early for '95.

–John Scheinman

OUTSIDE THE ROPES



Charley Scott gets clocked by Denny Moyer

Trainer **Kevin Rooney** was charged with driving while intoxicated and assaulting a police officer near North Stonington, Connecticut. Police said Rooney, who was pulled over for erratic driving, refused to take a sobriety test. As he was being handcuffed, Rooney forced a state trooper to the ground and kicked him ... Former welterweight contender **Charley Scott**, 58, died of respiratory failure in his native Philadelphia. After knocking out **Sugar Hart** in 1959, Scott rose to number two in the 147-pound rankings. His last fight came in 1966. He compiled a record of 34-31 (18), with most of the losses coming toward the end of his career ... Former featherweight contender **Ruben Palacio**, 32, was arrested at Miami International Airport and charged with importation of heroin and possession with intent to distribute heroin. According to police, Colombia's Palacio was concealing 5.3 pounds of heroin in his clothing. In 1993, Palacio tested positive for HIV ... **Henry Tillman**, a 1984 gold medalist and the fighter who shattered **Mike Tyson's** Olympic dream, was charged with felony theft and fraud for allegedly using a counterfeit credit card at a casino in Inglewood, California ... WBC President **Jose Sulaiman** announced that because of Proposition 187, the organization will not sanction world title fights in California until at least March 30, 1995. Moreover, Sulaiman said Mexican boxers who take part in pro bouts in the state will risk WBC penalties. Sulaiman views Proposition 187, which denies certain rights to illegal aliens, as a racist measure.

THE 10 THINGS LARRY HOLMES WOULD HAVE DONE HAD HE FAILED TO SECURE A SHOT AT OLIVER McCALL

Holmes: Lots of options

10. Challenge Sean O'Grady on USA Network's *Tuesday Night Fights*.
9. Watch the tape of the Gerry Cooney fight over and over. Funny, but it never gets boring.
8. Run for mayor of Easton, Pennsylvania. Campaign slogan: "I Own The Town, So I Might As Well Own City Hall."
7. Stick some more pins into that voodoo doll of George Foreman.
6. Fly to Las Vegas and show the boxing judges exactly where the sun *still* don't shine.
5. Open a financial consulting firm with Don King. Motto: "Make your first million and we'll turn it into *thousands*!"
4. Endorse a line of celebrity boxer jockstraps.
3. Challenge Joe Frazier to a loser-leaves-Pennsylvania match.
2. Lobby for a fighter's right to wear eyeglasses in the ring.
1. Star in a made-for-TV movie about a former heavyweight champion with multiple personalities, titled *I'm Not Tommy Morrison ... But I'm Ezzard Charles And Jersey Joe Walcott, And Sometimes Ernie Terrell, Too.*

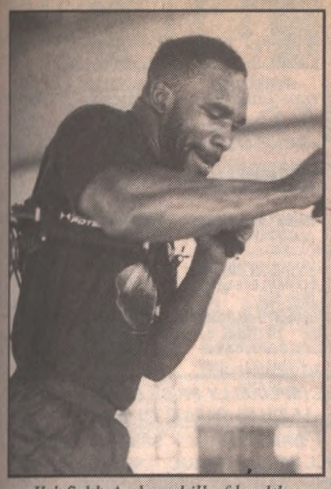
A FRIGHTENING SCARE

Duva: Recovering from surgery

Sometimes boxing just doesn't seem that important. In late-October, promoter Dan Duva, 44, underwent surgery in New York City to remove a tumor near his skull. The operation was successful, and a biopsy proved the tumor to be benign.

"Danny was home after a week, and he's been coming in the office a couple of hours a day," Dino Duva, Dan's brother and a vice president for Main Events, said in late-November. "Something like this makes you rethink things, of course, but Dan's family has always been the most important thing to him."

THE RING wishes Duva a speedy and complete recovery.



Holyfield: A clean bill of health

HOLY COMEBACK!

Former heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield just might fight again after all. "The Real Deal" received a clean bill of health from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Said a spokesman for the hospital, Holyfield is in "excellent health ... we have put no restrictions on his activities." Holyfield, 32, hasn't fought since losing the WBA and IBF titles to Michael Moorer in April 1994. After that bout, he was diagnosed as having a "stiff heart," or a non-compliant left ventricle that prevents sufficient oxygen from being pumped to muscles and tissues.

THE PUNCHLINE

Dallas Cowboys guard Nate Newton on his team's November 13 showdown with the San Francisco 49ers: "Next week is what it's all about. And I guarantee we're no Michael Moorer." (As it turned out, Dallas didn't suffer a one-punch kayo, but the Cowboys did lose to the 49ers, 21-14.)

***

George Foreman, when asked about Don King's comments that a Foreman-Mike Tyson fight would be dangerous for Big George: "You start getting really suspicious when you see a cat mourning the death of a rat."

THE BOXING BOOKSHELF

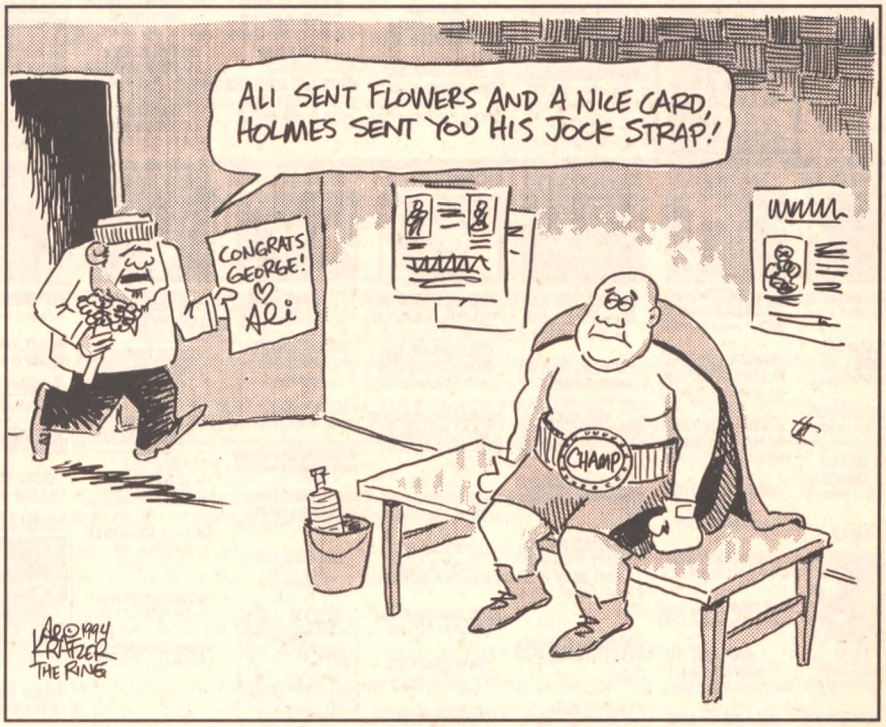
Have you ever watched a televised fight and said of one of the undercard boxers, "Who is this guy?" Don Carnahan provides the answer. In *Rising Stars 1994-95*, Carnahan offers capsule profiles of 600 international prospects, from heavyweight to strawweight. By the time you receive the 60-page soft-cover book, which sells for $15, most of the records will be outdated. Otherwise, the information is invaluable for insiders and ideal for curious fans.

Carnahan lists the prospects division-by-division and separates them into three categories: "Up-And-Coming," "Late-comers," and "Longshots." Included is a description of a fighter's style, his amateur accomplishments, and analysis of his future.

Rising Stars is both comprehensive and well-researched. Our only complaint: It's poorly designed and difficult to read. That aside, it's highly recommended. Those interested should contact Don Carnahan c/o Rising Stars, P.O. Box 2991, Yuma, AZ 85366.

–Steve Farhood

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



BRUCE LEE

•GREEN HORNET
3 SUPER EPISODES

•WAY OF THE DRAGON
LOADS OF EXTRA CE SCENES

•MARLOWE
EXCELLENT BRUCE CAMEO

•YOUNG BRUCE LEE
70 MINUTES OF YOUNG LEE

•BIG BOSS
EW VERSION EXCELLENT !! CN

•BRANDON LEE LEGACY OF RAGE
BRUCE'S SON 1ST MOVIE

BRUCE LEE

•FURY OF THE DRAGON
MORE KATO ACTION

•GAME OF DEATH
MORE LEE SCENES CE

•TOWER OF DEATH
CONTAINS UNSEEN *ENTER FOOTAGE*

•HERE COMES THE BIRDIES
FULL EPISODE ON BRUCE

•ENTER THE DRAGON
EXTARA LEE FOOTAGE CE (UNCUT)

• LONGSTREET VOL I
WAY OF INTERCEPTING FIST I SEE, SAID THE BLIND MAN

VOL II
WEDNESDAYS CHILD SPELL LEGACY LIKE DEATH

JACKIE CHAN

•EAGLES SHADOW
GENRE TRENDSETTER

•YOUNG TIGER
JACKIE AS A BADDIE !

•FIRST MISSION
JACKIE AND SAMO

•POLICE STORY 3 SUPERCOP
JACKIE AND MICHELLE KHAN. . WILD !(CE)

•POLICE STORY 4 PROJECT S
W/ MICHELLE KHAN FANTASTIC STUFF ! (CE)

•HAND OF DEATH
JACKIE AND TAN TAO LIANG

JACKIE CHAN

•DRUNKEN MASTER
DRUNKEN GOOD FUN

•PPOLICE STORY
UNCUT W/ EXTRA CE SCENES

•DRUNKEN FIST
BOXING EXCELLENT JACKIE CAMEO

•POLICE STORY II
JACKIE LETS LOOSE

•KILLER METEORS
JACKIE VS. JIMMY WANG YU

•ARMOUR OF GOD
DEATH DEFYING STUNTS !

•DRAGON'S FOREVER
REMATCH WITH THE JET !

•PROTECTOR
NEW, UNCUT CE VERSION

JACKIE CHAN

•YOUNG MASTER
LONGEST END FIGHT EVER !

•CLUB TIGER
JACKIE'S FIRST FILM

•PROJECT A
ONE OF JACKIE'S FAVORITES !

•WINNERS & SINNERS
WITH SAMO & YUEN BIAO

•PROJECT A2
SUPER SEQUEL GREAT FUN !

•TWINKLE, TWINKLE
LUCKY STAR A STAR RATING

•SPARTAN X
JACKIE FIGHTS THE JET !

•WORLD OF JACKIE
FASCINATING DOCUMENTARY

JET LEE

•SHAOLIN TEMPLE PARTS 1 & 2 (CE)

WU SHU CLASSICS

•ONCE UPON A TIME IN CHINA PTS I, II, & III
OUTSTANDING EPIC SAGAS. GET ALL THREE ! (CE)

•BORN TO DEFEND
JET LEE'S BLOODSPORT

•FONG SAI YUK PTS. I & II JET AS
LEGENDARY HERO TOP LINE ACTION (CE)

•LAST HERO IN CHINA (CE)
JET VS. MASTER KILLER !

•KUNG FU CULT MASTER
JET AND SAMO HUNG ! (CE)

•NEW LEGEND OF SHAOLIN
JET WITH WEAPONS ! (CE)

DONNIE YEN

•TIGER CAGE
KUNG FU GANGSTER !

•SUREFIRE
KUNG FU SHOWDOWN !

•IRON MONKEY (CE)
100 % PURE ACTION !

•CHEETAH ON FIRE
ALL STAR ACTION!

•DRAGON INN (CE)
DONNIE LETS LOOSE

•HERO AMONGST HEROES
BEGGAR STYLE KUNG FU (CE)

BRUCE LI

•BRUCE LEE'S SECRET
BRUCE BIO

•CHINESE CONNECTION 2
LI AVENGES LEE

•FIST OF FURY 3
LI VS. SAMURAI

•COUNTER ATTACK
W. DAN INOSANTO

•GOODBY BRUCE LEE
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BILLY CHONG

•HARD WAY TO DIE
W/ CARL SCOTT!

•CRYSTAL FIST
(JADE CLAW) BILLY & DRUNKEN MASTER

•SUPET POWER
MULTI STYLE MAHEM

•KUNG FU EXECUTIONER
BILLY & CARL VS.MAFIA !

•KUNG-FU ZOMBIE
BILLY'S BEST

•KUNF-FU FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE
SEQUEL TO ZOMBIE

•FISTFUL OF TALONS
BILLY EPIC !

GORDON LIU

•THE MASTER KILLER

•FISTS AND GUTS
GORDON VS. LIEH

•WARRIOR FROM SHAOLIN
OUTRAGEOUS ACTION

•BREAK OUT FROM OPPRESION
GORDON'S FIRST EPIC !

•SHAOLIN DRUNK MONK
GORDON DOES DRNKEN FIST

•HE HAS NOTHING BUT KUNG FU
GORDON CLASSIC!

NOTICE !
THE ABOVE FILMS WITH BILLY, GORDON AND CLASSICS ARE $49.95 EACH

KUNG FU CLASSICS

•KARADO - HONG KONG CAT
A.K.A. SUPER KUNG-FU

•MANDARIN MAGICIAN
A.K.A. BLOODY RING

•DEATH DUEL OF KUNG-FU
W/ JOHN LIU WANG TAO EXCELLENT !

•THE VICTIM
W/ SAMO HUNG DON'T MISS THIS

•EAGLE'S CLAW
ORIGINAL CLASSIC

•HOT, COOL, & VICIOUS
TRENDSETTER

•MISSION KISS & KILL
W/ JACKIE LEE (7 GRANDMASTERS) 4 STARS !

JACKIE LEE

•7 GRANDMASTERS 4 STAR SMASH !

•WORLD OF DRUNKEN MASTER
7 GRANDMASTER RETURN

•MYSTERY OF CHESS BOXING
7 GRANDMASTERS REVENGE

•SEVEN COMMANDMENTS OF KUNG FU
DEADLY MANTIS STYLE

•INVINCIBLE SHAOLIN KUNG FU BUTTERFLY STRIKES!

•SHAOLIN IRON CLAWS JACKIE GETS HEAVY!

•TWO HEROES/ SHOOTING STARS
DEADLY ENCOUNTERS! WILD !

KUNG FU FAVORITES

KUNG FU FAVORITES

•18 BRONZEMEN PT3 THE 8 MASTERS
BRONZE SKILLS TESTED

•SECRET RIVALS PT2
SILVER FOX RETURNS

•EAGLE VS. SILVER FOX
SILVER FOX SPARES NONE

•DAGGERS 8
MULTI-STYLE KILLER! HEAVY!

•DANCE OF DRUNK MANTIS
MUST SEE DRUNKEN ACTION!

•FATAL CLAWS/ DEADLY KICKS
WOMAN AVENGER! ROCKING!

•FIRE AND ICE HAND
HOT ACTION, COLD REVENGE!

KUNG FU FAVORITES

KUNG FU FAVORITES

•KUNG FU VS YOGA
YOGA MAN RULES! INCREDIBLE!

•60 SECOND ASSASSIN
RAPID FIRE SHOWDOWN

•MYSTERIOUS HEROES
WILD STYLES TAKE OVER! RARE!

•NINJA IN THE DRAGON'S DEN
POWERFUL, EXQUISITE FIGHTING

•PECULIAR BOXING MASTER
DRUNKEN MASTER RETURNS!

•REVENGE OF DRUNKEN MASTER
JACKIE STYLE MAYHEM!

•KUNG FU COMMANDOES
KUNG FU DIRTY DOZEN!

KUNG FU FAVORITES

•THUNDERING MANTIS FURIOUS ACTION

•SNAKE FIST VS. THE DRAGON GENRE TRENDSETTER

•TWO ON THE ROAD PHILIP KO AND THUNDERING MANTIS !

•INVINCIBLE ARMOR JOHN LIU AND SILVERFOX

•DRAGON ON FIRE W/ DRAGON LEE

•18 BRONZEMEN W/ CARTER WONG

•18 BRONZEMEN 2 SUPER SEQUEL

DUEL OF THE 7 TIGERS
ALL STYLES CLASH! AWESOME!

KUNG FU FAVORITES

•CRIPLLED MASTERS
SEEING IS BELIEVING

•TONG FATHER
CLASSIC FILM

•SUPER MAN CHU
BADDER THAN BOND!

•SECRET RIVALS
W/ WONG JANG LEE

•18 FATAL STRIKES
HARD HITTING (CE)

•MAFIA VS. NINJA
NON STOP IMPACT! INSANE!

•IRON MONKEY
AUTHENTIC MONKEY KUNG FU

•SHAOLIN KINGBOXER
BUTT KICKING ALL STAR CAST!

•SNAKE STRIKES BACK
SNAKE STYLE ON THE LOOSE!

KUNG FU FAVORITES

•PRODIGAL BOXER
TRUE STORY ACTION! CLASSIC!

•SLEEPING FIST
EXOTIC STYLE BLOWUP!

•INSTANT KUNG FU MAN
HIGH KICKING ACTION!

•BUDDAH ASSASSINATOR
BUDDAH FIST VS. EAGLE

•HELL'S WIND STAFF
TRENDSETTER!

•10 MAGNIFICENT KILLERS
10 REASONS TO WATCH!

•SNUFF BOTTLE CONNECTION
LEG COMBAT SHOWDOWN

•KUNG FU GENIUS
MAD MONKEY RETURNS!

RON VAN CLIEF

•BLACK DRAGON
RON'S FIRST EPIC

•DEATH OF BRUCE LEE
RON'S REVENGE !

•SUPER WEAPON
ALL STAR DOCU

•WAY OF THE BLACK DRAGON
RON RETURNS !

JIM KELLY

•TATTOO CONNECTION
W/ TAN TAO LIANG

•3 THE HARD WAY
CLASSIC FLICK

•BLACK SAMURAI
KELLY'S BEST

WANG YU

•CHINESE PROFESSIONALS
AKA 1 ARM BOXER

•MASTER OF THE FLYING GUILOTINE
AKA 1 ARM BOXER

•RETURN OF THE 1 ARM SWORDSMAN
EXCELLENT FILM (CE)

•BLOOD OF THE DRAGON
A 1 MAN ARMY

•KUNG-FU MAMA
WANG ACTIONFEST

•MAN FROM HONG KONG
THE DRAGON FLIES!

•IRON FIST ADVENTURES
WANG YU MASSACRE

•ISLAND ON FIRE
W/ JACKIE CHAN!

•BEACH OF WAR GODS
WANG VS. JAP PIRATES!

SAMO HUNG

•ENTER THE FAT DRAGON ! (CE)
SHAKE & BAKE

•PEDICAB DRIVER
OUTSTANDING !

•SPOOKY ENCOUNTER PT 2.
KUNG FU HORROR

•EASTERN CONDORS
SAMO MASTERPIECE (CE)

•PAINTED FACES
STORY OF SAMO AND JACKIE. EXCELLENT FILM (CE)

•IRON FISTED MONK
SAMO AT SHAOLIN ! (CE)

•SHAOLIN PLOT
TEMPLE ACTION ! (CE)

SONNY CHIBA

•STREETFIGHTER
ORIGINAL CLASSIC

•RETURN OF THE STREETFIGHTER
THROAT RIPPING

•STREETFIGHTER'S LAST REVENGE
FINAL CHAPTER !

•SISTER STREETFIGHTER
W/ SUE SHIOMI

•SOUL OF BRUCE LEE
OUTSTANDING FILM

•THE BODYGUARD
BRUTAL STUFF

•ROARING FIRE
W/ HENRY SANADA

•SHOGUN'S NINJA
W/ CHIBA & SANADA

CYNTHIA ROTHROCK

•YES, MADAM
W/ MICHELLE KHAN

•MAGIC CRYSTAL
CINDY'S BEST FIGHTING

•CITY COPS (CE)
CINDY UNDER COVER

•RIGHTING WRONGS
WITH KAREN SHEPARD

•INSPECTOR WEARS SKIRT
CINDY VS. THE MOB!

•BLONDE FURY
CINDY GETS DANGEROUS

JUDY LEE

•QUEEN BOXER
SUPER CLASSIC

•LADY CONSTABLE
W/ ANGELA MAO

ANGELA MAO

•LADY KUNG FU
KUNG FU CLASSIC!

•DEEP THRUST
CLASSIC ANGELA ACTION

•BROKEN OATH
ANGELA GETS MEAN!

•HIMALAYAN
ANGELA AT SHAOLIN!

•DEVIL'S DYNAMITE
ANGELA VS. ROBOCOP

•SCORCHING SUN
HER BEST FILM

•DANCE OF DEATH
DIRECTED BY JACKIE

YUKARI OSHIMA

•KUNG FU MAGIC
MAGIC ACTION

•SPLIT THUNDER
W/ JEFF FALCON

•FIGHT TO WIN
TREND SETTER

•BLOODSISTERS
BOUND BY HONOR

•KICK TO WIN
HI STEP ACTION

MICHELLE KHAN

•WING CHUN (CE)
STYLE FOUNDER IN ACTION

•HOLY WEAPON
ALL STAR CAST ! (CE)

•MAGNIFICENT WARRIORS
FURIOUS STUFF

•IN THE LINE OF DUTY
HER BEST FILM

NEW WAVE KUNG FU *RECENT EPICS*

ALL TAPES ARE (CE) CHINESE ONLY

•FLYING DAGGER
OUTRAGEOUS STUFF !

•ROYAL TRAMP I & II
ROYAL ACTION SERIES

•FISTS OF SHAOLIN
MAINLAND CHINA ACTION

•GREEN SNAKE
EROTIC KUNG FU

•13 COLD BLOODED EAGLES
NO MERCY ACTION FLICK

•1 ARM HERO
TOP KUNG FU REVIEW !

NEW WAVE KUNG FU *RECENT EPICS*

ALL TAPES ARE (CE) CHINESE ONLY

•IRON BRIDGE CHAMPION
SEQUEL TO 1 ARM HERO

•ASSASSIN
BLOODY GOOD KUNG FU!

•ASSASSIN
BLOODY GOOD KUNG FU!

•SWORD STAINED W/ ROYAL BLOOD
SOPHITICATED ACTION !

•DEADEND OF BESIEGERS
FIGHT TO THE FINISH!

•BLADE OF FURY
NO HOLDS BARRED! WILD !

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REAL KUNG FU HISTORY

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AWESOME FIGHT SCENES

•DISCIPLES OF MASTER KILLER
NEW STUDENTS AND MOVIES (CE)

•SHAOLIN DRUNKARD STYLE
GORDON LETS LOOSE ! (CE)

•MASTER KILLER
ORIGINAL CLASSIC!

•RETURN OF MASTER KILLER
WILD ACTION SEQUEL

•LEGENDARY WEAPONS OF KUNG FU
GORDON AND ALLSTAR CAST !

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•5 MASTERS OF SHAOLIN

•DEATH CHAMBER
ALL STAR CAST

•HEROS 2
SHAOLIN REVENGE

•MEN FROM THE MONASTARY

•SHAOLIN MARTIAL ARTS
AUTHENTIC STYLES

INVINCIBLE KUNG FU BROS.
SHAOLIN AVENGERS

•HEROIC ONES
12 MAN CREW !

•BOXER FROM SHANTUNG
BLOOD SOAKED MAYHEM

•WARRIOR OF STEEL
NOBODY SURVIVES!

•10 TIGERS OF KWANTANG
W/ VENOMS, FU SHENG, TI LUNG, ETC.

•1 ARMED SWORDSMAN
WANG YU SPECTACULAR

•RETURN OF 1 ARMED SWORDSMAN
EVEN MORE ACTION!

•POLTERGEIST WARRIOR (CE)
5 VENOM STYLE ACTION!

5 VENOM ACTION

•5 DEADLY VENOMS
PICK YOUR POISON

•KID WITH THE GOLDEN ARM

•DAREDEVILS
VENOMS RETURN

•UNBEATABLE DRAGON
VENOMS DO SHAOLIN

•SUPERNINJAS
VENOMS VS. NINJA

•MASKED AVENGERS VENOMS WITH WEAPONS

•SPEARMAN MASTER LEVEL ACTION

•MORTAL COMBAT VENOMS REVENGE

•KILLER ARMY UNIQUE WEAPONS

•ROAR OF THE LION

•DESTROYERS
VENOM VS. VENOM

•LIFE GAMBLE VENOMS WITH FU SHENG

DAVID CHANG/TI LUNG

•7 BLOWS OF THE DRAGON 2

•TRIPLE IRONS
CLASSIC FILM

•ANGRY GUEST
SUPER TEAM-UP

•SINGING KILLER
ROCKING FISTS (CE)

•HAVE SWORD, WILL TRAVEL
DAVID AND TI LUNG CLASSIC

•KING EAGLE (CE)
TI LUNG GETS CRAZY

•DYNASTY OF BLOOD
DAVID/TI LUNG EPIC!

•OPIUM AND KUNG FU MASTER
TOP RATE FIGHTING AND STORY (CE)

•WANDERING SWORDSMAN (CE)
DAVID SPARES NONE!

•KUNG FU VENGEANCE
DAVID AVENGES TI LUNG

•SAVAGE 5
5 BAD DUDES !

•SHAOLIN HANDLOCK
RARE SECRET STYLES

•IRON CHAIN FIGHTER
METAL FIST ACTION

•KUNG FU INSTRUCTOR
TI LUNG UNLEASHED

•THE IMPOSTER (CE)
DAVID IN DISGUISE

SHAW FAVORITES

•SHAOLIN MANTIS
DAVID CHANG EPIC

•MAD MONKEY
HEAVY CLASSIC

•BATTLE FOR SHAOLIN
MONKS GO CRAZY!

•5 SUPERFIGHTERS
LESSONS IN DEATH!

•MASTER OF KUNG FU
TOP NOTCH FIGHTING

•STROKE OF DEATH
MONKEY STYLE ACTION!

•3 EVIL MASTERS
3 LETHAL MOTHERS

•LADY IS THE BOSS
ALL STAR RUMBLE! GREAT !

•FLYING GUILOTINE
HEADS UP! WILD !

•SLICE OF DEATH AKA/
ABBOTT OF SHAOLIN

•EXECUTIONER OF DEATH
TIGER/CRANE FISTS COMBO !

LOVERS BLADES
DOUBLE THE WEAPONS!

•POLICE POOL OF BLOOD
BLOODY TO THE BONE

•LONG ROAD TO GALLANTRY
HI STEPPING! ACTION! AND FAST!

•LADY ASSASSIN
MUST SEE TO BELIEVE!

•SHAOLIN VS. WUTANG
MATSER KILLER EPIC!

SHAW BROTHERS CLASSICS

FINGERS OF DEATH ORIGINAL CLASSIC

SACRED KNIVES OF VENGEANCE

REVENGE OF THE IRON FIST

HAMMER OF GOD THE CHINESE BOXER

SEVEN BLOWS OF THE DRAGON

ALEXANDER FU SHENG

•NA CHA THE GREAT
WEAPONS GALORE! (CE)

•GRANDMASTER OF DEATH
RARE STYLES SHOWN

•BRAVE ARCHER PT I
COSTUME CLASSIC

•AVENGING EAGLE
EAGLE CLAN MADNESS !

•4 ASSASSINS
RARE KUNG FU SYSTEMS

•INVINCIBLE ONE
FU SHENG'S FAVORITE

•CHINA TOWN KID
FU SHENG EPIC

HORROR ACTION

HUMAN SKIN LANTERN
WORDS, SEX, (CE)

LEGEND OF 7 VAMPIRES
WU CHANG VS. DRACULA

WING CHUN

•STRANGER FROM SHAOLIN
STORY OF FOUNDER

•DESCENDANT OF WING CHUN
WING CHUN VS. EAGLE CLAN (CE)

•108 WOODEN DUMMY
COMPLETE BREAKDOWN

•TRADITIONAL WING CHUN
FOUNDATION AND COMPLETE TECHNIQUES SHOWN

•WING CHUN FOR BEGINNERS
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•YIP CHUN SEMINAR
W/ RARE YIP MAN FOOTAGE

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SHAOLIN

•SHAOLIN VS. LAMA CLAN SHOWDOWN !

•SHAOLIN VS. NINJA FIST TO FIST ACTION!

•SHAOLIN AGAINST LAMA
DEADLY RIVALS CLASH !

•SHAOLIN DRUNK FIGHTER MONKS GO CRAZY!

•SHAOLIN STRIKES BACK MONKS GET EVEN

•UNBAETEN 28 NEW CHAMBERS !

•5 FIGHTERS FROM SHAOLIN SHAOLIN LETS LOOSE!

•LITTLE HEROES FROM SHAOLIN BABY MONKS STRIKE!

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•MAKING OF ZATOICHI
BEHIND THE SCENES JN

•ZATOICHI VS. YOJIMBO
KATSU AND MIFUNE JE

ZATOICHI AND WHITE WOLF
ZATOICHI IN CHINA CE

CLASSICS

•JUDO SAGA
KUROSAWA MASTERPIECE JE

ONE EYED SWORDSMAN
W/ TETSUROTAMBA SLASHFEST JE

SAMURAI ACTION

•SHOGUN ASSASSIN
BABY CART BLOODFEST

•SHOGUN ASSASSIN II
AKA FUGITIVE SAMURAI

•LIGHTING SWORDS OF DEATH
AKA LUPINE WOLF

TOSHIRO MIFUNE

•RED LION
MURINE TAKES CHARGE JE

•SAMURAI SAGA
EXCELLENT SWORDPLAY JE

SAMURAI ACTION

•MIYAMOTO MUSASHI

•SWORDS OF FURY PARTS I & II

•BIO EPICS (JE)

•SWORDS OF DEATH
MUSASHI VS. CHAIN & SICKLE JE

•KOJIRO
STORY OF MUSASHI'S FOE JE

•GAMBLING SAMURAI
MIFUNE TAKES THE ODDS JE

•SAGA OF THE VAGABONDS
MIFUNE'S BEST JE

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THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended December 1, 1994

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

Frank Tate

Kostya Tszyu

Oscar De La Hoya

Wilfredo Vasquez

Kennedy McKinney

Al Kotey

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **GEORGE FOREMAN** — Houston, TX *73-4 (WBA/IBF Champ)*
2. **OLIVER McCALL** — Chicago, IL *25-5 (WBC Champ)*
3. **RIDDICK BOWE** — Fort Washington, MD *34-1*
4. **MICHAEL MOORER** — Detroit, MI *35-0*
5. **LENNOX LEWIS** — England *25-1*
6. **HERBIE HIDE** — England *26-0*
7. **LARRY DONALD** — Cincinnati, OH *16-0*
8. **LARRY HOLMES** — Easton, PA *61-4*
9. **HENRY AKINWANDE** — England *24-0-1*
10. **JORGE LUIS GONZALEZ** — Las Vegas, NV *22-0*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 195 pounds

1. **ORLIN NORRIS** — Campo, CA *42-3 (WBA Champ)*
2. **AL COLE** — Spring Valley, NY *25-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **ANACLET WAMBA** — France *44-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **ADOLPHO WASHINGTON** — Lexington, KY *24-2-2*
5. **THOMAS HEARNS** — Detroit, MI *53-4-1*
6. **SERGEI KOBOZEV** — Brooklyn, NY *19-0*
7. **CARL THOMPSON** — England *18-3*
8. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS** — Las Vegas, NV *22-3-1*
9. **NORBERT EKASSI** — France *22-4-1*
10. **KENNY KEENE** — Emmett, ID *29-0*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **VIRGIL HILL** — Bismarck, ND *39-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **MIKE McCALLUM** — Brooklyn, NY *47-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **HENRY MASKE** — Germany *25-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **JAMES TONEY** — Ann Arbor, MI *44-0-2*
5. **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS** — Mansfield, OH *36-6-2*
6. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** — Germany *24-0*
7. **FABRICE TIOZZO** — France *30-1*
8. **EGERTON MARCUS** — Canada *14-0*
9. **FRANK TATE** — Houston, TX *34-4*
10. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** — Chicago, IL *14-0*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** — Pensacola, FL *27-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **NIGEL BENN** — England *39-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **CHRIS EUBANK** — England *40-0-2*
4. **FRANK LILES** — N. Hollywood, CA *25-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **MICHAEL NUNN** — Davenport, IA *43-2*
6. **VINNY PAZIENZA** — Cranston, RI *39-5*
7. **TONY THORNTON** — Glassboro, NJ *35-6-1*
8. **TIM LITTLES** — Flint, MI *24-1*
9. **RAY CLOSE** — N. Ireland *20-3-1*
10. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI** — Germany *37-1*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **GERALD McCLELLAN** — Freeport, IL *31-2 (WBC Champ)*
2. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON** — Seattle, WA *32-0*
3. **BERNARD HOPKINS** — Philadelphia, PA *26-2*
4. **JORGE CASTRO** — Argentina *95-4-2 (WBA Champ)*
5. **REGGIE JOHNSON** — Houston, TX *35-4-1*
6. **QUINCY TAYLOR** — Dallas, TX *23-3*
7. **THOMAS TATE** — Houston, TX *29-3*
8. **STEVE COLLINS** — Ireland *28-3*
9. **JOE LIPSEY** — Lansing, MI *24-0*
10. **AGOSTINO CARDAMONE** — Italy *24-0*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
   Argentina 52-1 (WBA Champ)
2. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Mission Valley, CA 38-5
3. **VINCENT PETTWAY**
   Baltimore, MD 37-4-1 (IBF Champ)
4. **VERNO PHILLIPS**
   New York, NY 24-4-1
5. **GIANFRANCO ROSI**
   Italy 57-4-1
6. **JULIO CESAR GREEN**
   Brooklyn, NY 18-1
7. **SIMON BROWN**
   Mount Airy, MD 42-3
8. **CARL DANIELS**
   St. Louis, MO 32-1
9. **JAVIER CASTILLEJO**
   Spain 36-2
10. **RAUL MARQUEZ**
    Houston, TX 18-0

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA 34-1-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico 24-0 (IBF Champ)
3. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana 27-0 (WBA Champ)
4. **BUDDY McGIRT**
   Hauppauge, NY 64-4-1
5. **CRISANTO ESPANA**
   N. Ireland 30-1
6. **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico 56-1
7. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico 19-0-1
8. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI 32-0
9. **DERRELL COLEY**
   Capitol Heights, MD 25-0-2
10. **MANNING GALLOWAY**
    Columbus, OH 51-12-1

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
   Warren, OH 50-3-1 (WBA Champ)
2. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico 91-1-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **JAKE RODRIGUEZ**
   Brentwood, NY 26-2-2 (IBF Champ)
4. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia 13-0
5. **JUAN COGGI**
   Argentina 67-3-2
6. **TONY LOPEZ**
   Sacramento, CA 45-4-1
7. **DAVID KAMAU**
   Los Angeles, CA 25-0
8. **GIOVANNI PARISI**
   Italy 29-1
9. **RAY OLIVEIRA**
   Falls River, MA 23-5
10. **DARRYLL TYSON**
    Washington, D.C. 44-6-1

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico 34-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **RAFAEL RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA 41-1 (IBF Champ)
3. **NAZAROV OLZUBEK**
   Japan 19-0 (WBA Champ)
4. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Montebello, CA 15-0
5. **JOEY GAMACHE**
   Lewiston, ME 36-1
6. **MIGUEL JULIO**
   Colombia 28-1-1
7. **LEAVANDER JOHNSON**
   Atlantic City, NJ 22-1-1
8. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO 12-0
9. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA 16-0
10. **BILLY SCHWER**
    England 26-1

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
   Puerto Rico 36-3 (IBF Champ)
2. **GABE RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA 39-2 (WBC Champ)
3. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
   Los Angeles, CA 31-0-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **JESSE JAMES LEIJA**
   San Antonio, TX 28-1-2
5. **AZUMAH NELSON**
   Ghana 37-3-2
6. **FREDDIE LIBERATORE**
   Bayside, NY 20-3-1
7. **REGGIE TUUR**
   Whitestone, NY 36-3-1
8. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ 19-1
9. **VICTOR HUGO PAZ**
   Argentina 50-1-1
10. **ED HOPSON**
    St. Louis, MO 25-0

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **KEVIN KELLEY**
   Flushing, NY 41-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **TOM JOHNSON**
   Detroit, MI 37-2-1 (IBF Champ)
3. **STEVE ROBINSON**
   Wales 19-9-1
4. **ELOY ROJAS**
   Venezuela 29-1-1 (WBA Champ)
5. **YUNG KYUN PARK**
   South Korea 28-2-1
6. **ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ**
   Mexico 33-2
7. **TRACY PATTERSON**
   Highland, NY 50-3-1
8. **EVER BELENO**
   Colombia 29-1
9. **ORLANDO SOTO**
   Panama 24-1
10. **MANUEL MEDINA**
    Mexico 49-5

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **VUYANI BUNGU**
   South Africa 25-2 (IBF Champ)
2. **WILFREDO VASQUEZ**
   Puerto Rico 41-6-3 (WBA Champ)
3. **HECTOR ACERO-SANCHEZ**
   New York, NY 31-2-2 (WBC Champ)
4. **JULIO GERVACIO**
   Puerto Rico 30-3-2
5. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Las Vegas, NV 27-1-1
6. **WELCOME NCITA**
   South Africa 33-2
7. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico 33-0
8. **JESUS SALUD**
   San Diego, CA 48-6
9. **JUAN POLO-PEREZ**
   Colombia 35-10-2
10. **EDDIE CROFT**
    San Mateo, CA 21-1-1

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
   Laredo, TX 38-1-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **YASUEI YAKUSHIJI**
   Japan 22-2-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **DAORUNG MP PETROLEUM**
   Thailand 54-4-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
   Las Vegas, NV 15-0
5. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England 14-0
6. **JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI**
   Japan 10-1-1
7. **ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia 28-1
8. **SERGIO REYES**
   Fort Worth, TX 10-1
9. **AL KOTEY**
   England 19-1
10. **NANA KONADU**
    Ghana 33-2

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **HAROLD GRAY**
   Colombia 17-0 (IBF Champ)
2. **HIROSHI KAWASHIMA**
   Japan 15-2-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **HYUNG CHUL LEE**
   South Korea 18-4 (WBA Champ)
4. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Abuquerque, NM 27-0-1
5. **DANNY ROMERO**
   Abuquerque, NM 21-0
6. **JULIO BORBOA**
   Mexico 23-5
7. **KHAOYAI MAHASARAKAM**
   Thailand 49-4
8. **KATSUYA ONIZUKA**
   Japan 24-1
9. **CECILIO ESPINO**
   Huntington Park, CA 29-3-1
10. **PHICHIT SITHBANGPRACHAN**
    Thailand 20-0

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

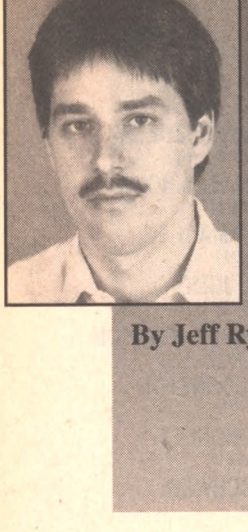
1. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Japan 19-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **SAN SOR PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand 20-0 (WBA Champ)
3. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. 21-1
4. **DAVID GRIMAN**
   Venezuela 19-2
5. **MIGUEL MARTINEZ**
   Mexico 27-7-1
6. **JOSE LUIS ZEPEDA**
   Mexico 23-12-2
7. **ISAIAS ZAMUDIO**
   Blythe, CA 37-5-1
8. **JAKE MATLALA**
   South Africa 42-9-1
9. **ALBERTO JIMENEZ**
   Mexico 27-3-2
10. **ROBBIE REGAN**
    Wales 13-1-3

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **CHIQUITA GONZALEZ**
   Mexico 40-2 (WBC/IBF Champ)
2. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Phoenix, AZ 32-2
3. **LEO GAMEZ**
   Venezuela 27-3-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico 42-4-4
5. **ERIC GRIFFIN**
   Jasper, TN 14-1
6. **JESUS CHONG**
   Mexico 26-5
7. **JOSE DeJESUS**
   Puerto Rico 29-2-1
8. **FAHLAN SAKKIRIN**
   Thailand 27-2-1
9. **ROBINSON CUESTA**
   Panama 23-1
10. **HADAO CP GYM**
    Thailand 22-9-1

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Welterweight
2. **ROY JONES**
   Super Middleweight
3. **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
   Bantamweight
4. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Strawweight
5. **CHIQUITA GONZALEZ**
   Junior Flyweight
6. **GERALD McCLELLAN**
   Middleweight
7. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
   Junior Welterweight
8. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Welterweight
9. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Lightweight
10. **KEVIN KELLEY**
    Featherweight



RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

TRADING PLACES

One guy works in a bakery, has good-luck charms rubbed on his shoulders, talks down his hellish father, and concluded the biggest event of his life on a rampage. The other guy *trains* in a bakery, has Ben-Gay rubbed on his shoulders, talks up his Heavenly Father, and concluded the biggest event of his life on his knees. James Toney. George Foreman. Lights Out. Soup's on.

Two very different personalities with something very much in common: They both stood center-stage of the theater of the absurd when they were involved in tough fights 15 days apart.

The temptation is to call Toney's plunge off the IBF super middleweight throne a fall from grace, but the truth is, "Lights Out" never really had any grace to begin with. And that was the charm of him. A dude with a 'tude, he walked around thinking he was the best, showed no respect to opponents, and took on everyone of substance who wanted a chance to wipe the smile off his face. He avoided serious competition the way Tommy Morrison avoids punches: not very well.

All the while Toney was writing one of the game's finest resumes, Foreman was trying to take shortcuts, calling on his connections to get promoted. He networked a bit (specifically HBO, which paid him millions to bash the Pierre Coetzers of the world), and even shouted, "Age discrimination!" when it served his purposes. What we couldn't understand was why Foreman never saw the farce he had become. He was a one-ring circus with a tattered big top and a clown act that was more sad than funny.

The brazen, undefeated Toney was all that was right with the fight game. The manipulation, bully-pulpit preacher, Foreman was all that was wrong. Then came the November to remember.

Before you could say two all-beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, pickles, and onions on a sesame seed bun, the Mayor McCheese had become a national hero again with a one-punch knockout of Michael Moorer. And a few days after a decision loss to Roy Jones, Toney was left looking like a Mac Scream Loudly graduate of the Mike Tyson School of Business Loyalty.

Is having fun-loving, quotable, endearing, geriatric George as the heavyweight champion of the world a good thing for the Sweet Science? Opinion is divided, but I don't think it's positive. Crowning fortysomething Robert Parish the M wouldn't say a whole lot for the level of talent in the NBA, even though Foreman has become quite adept at spanking the young toughs, that risk of injury is still there. In recent fig

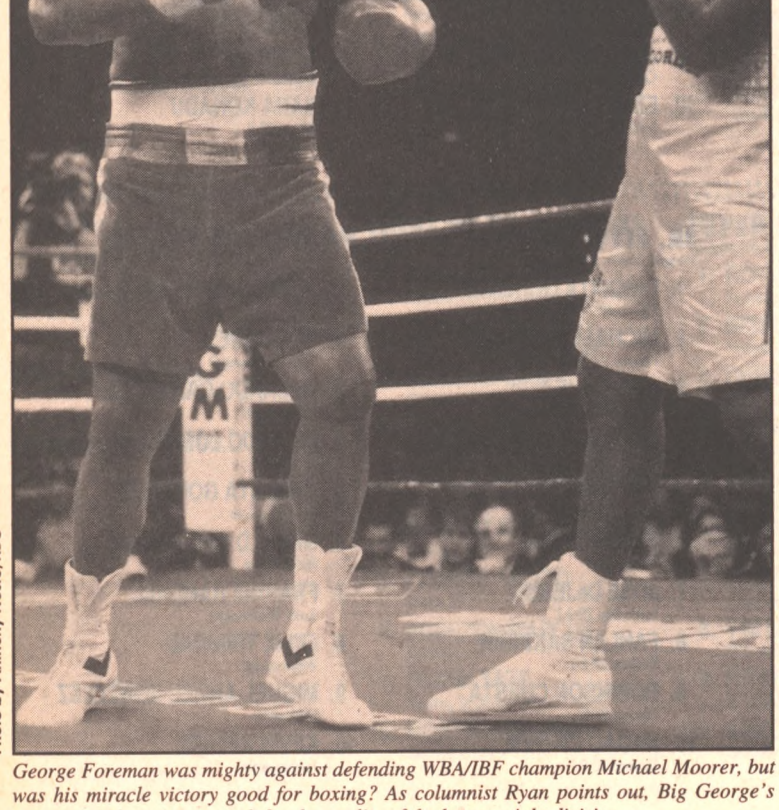


Photo by Anthony Neste/HBO

George Foreman was mighty against defending WBA/IBF champion Michael Moorer, but was his miracle victory good for boxing? As columnist Ryan points out, Big George's coronation doesn't say much for the quality of the heavyweight division.

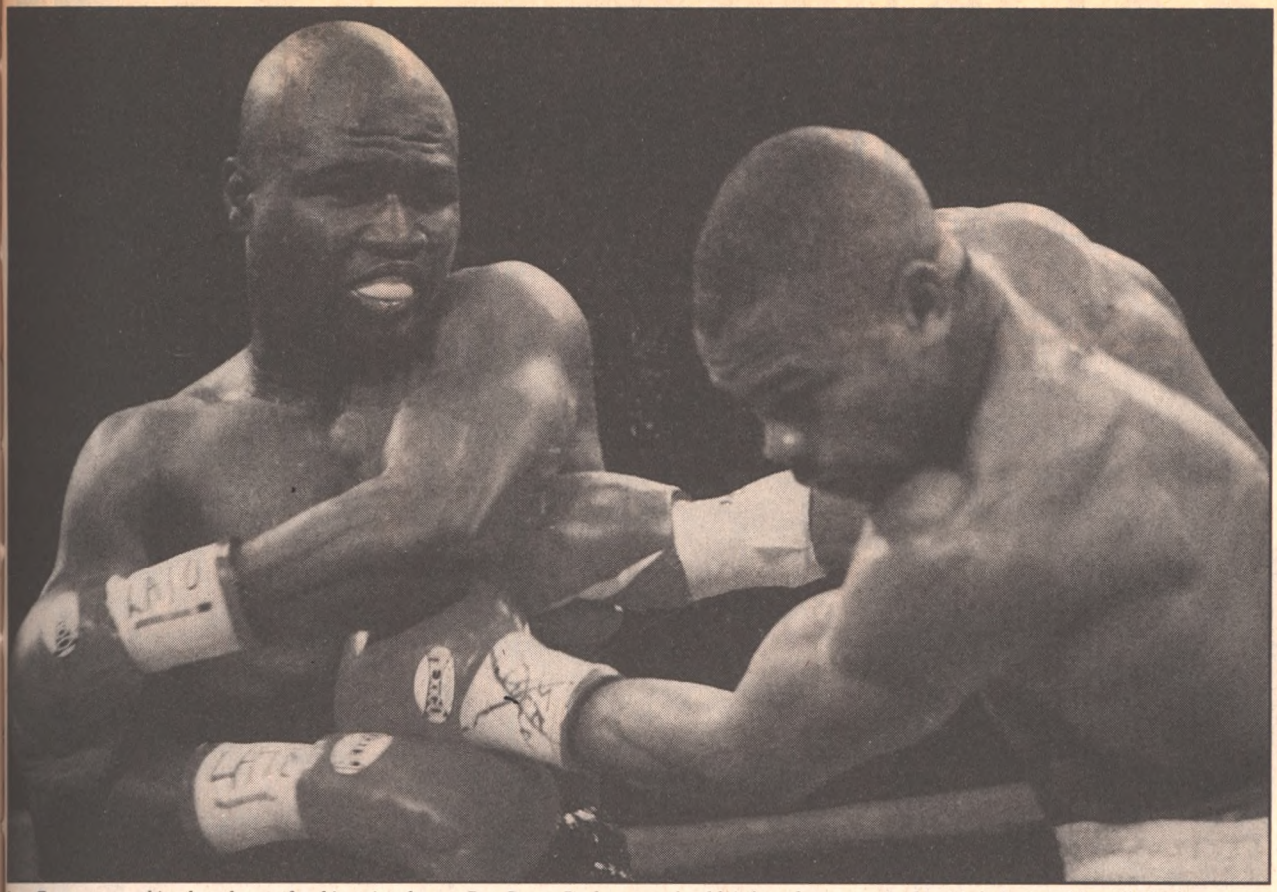


Photo by Nasser Khan/"The Fightmaster"

James Toney was anything but classy after his points loss to Roy Jones. Perhaps we shouldn't have been surprised by his behavior. After all, the former two-division champion has never been too generous in showing respect. But his post-fight words and actions to manager Jackie Kallen were shocking.

the Moorer win included, he has taken a huge volume of punches.

But the more I watch sports as a fan or cover them as a journalist, the more I am beginning to at least understand the people who make the case for Foreman being an image-enhancer and not some buffoon soiling the sports landscape. Just take a look around at all the, *ahem,* dignity on display elsewhere.

Baseball and hockey players and their team owners can't stop acting childish long enough to make a living. Basketball players seem incapable of scoring these days without having to tell the defender, the opposing coach, and the first row of spectators exactly how spectacular that reverse layup was. The 49ers Deion Sanders makes a fool out of himself with a bump-and-grind routine each time he runs back an interception for a score.

The fan, he's just a nuisance to many of these guys. Too many pro athletes wouldn't give fans the time of day—unless of course they were being asked what time their $20-a-pop autograph session was scheduled to start.

During one *Monday Night Football* game this season, the Dallas Cowboys and New York Giants brawled on their way to the dressing rooms at halftime, oblivious to the fact—or maybe just not caring—that a bunch of terrified high school band members and cheerleaders stood only a few feet away. Then in the midst of the fight, one Cowboy grabbed a photographer's tripod and brandished it as a weapon. (Imagine what would happen if a photographer ever laid *his* hands on a *player's* equipment.)

It was in this context of sport degenerating by the day that Toney went on a Detroit radio station and earned the title of undisputed mental lightweight king. While Foreman, the man of the cloth, was still busy telling interviewers that he wanted to serve as an inspiration and role model, Toney, the man of the froth, was on a rabid radio roll, calling manager Jackie Kallen a "ho" and telling her she was through.

Unrestrained and laid naked for the world to see, Toney's street side suddenly wasn't so charming anymore.

Everyone assumed that Toney meant Kallen was through as manager, but Kallen was later warned by Toney's mother that the fighter was brandishing a gun and threatening to go to the manager's house. The police were called, but Toney never showed up at the Kallen residence. Toney claimed he was sick with the flu but was forced by Kallen to go through with the Jones fight. Actually, he seemed to be suffering from amnesia, forgetting how many millions he has made with Kallen guiding his career.

(For fun, let's all count the days before Don King starts courting Toney, telling the ex-champ how badly he needs to be rescued from the clutches of the evil white woman.)

Toney's tirade is giving me second thoughts. Maybe boxing can do much worse having the world's attention focused on a preacher and patriot who lives clean, still asks his mother for permission to fight, signs autographs, grants interviews, runs a church and a youth center, and bypasses the chance to trash, dis, carve up, blast, or rip everyone in sight.

Still, barring a retirement that would be wise but is unlikely, let's just hope these days of positive imagery linger. If Foreman leaves the ring on a stretcher, or if he suffers from punch-drunkenness one day, his shot heard 'round the world against Moorer will be viewed in an entirely different light.

It will be thought of not as a remarkable sports moment, but as the instant that encouraged Big George to keep looking for trunks and right hands thought to be packed away forever 20 years ago. ■

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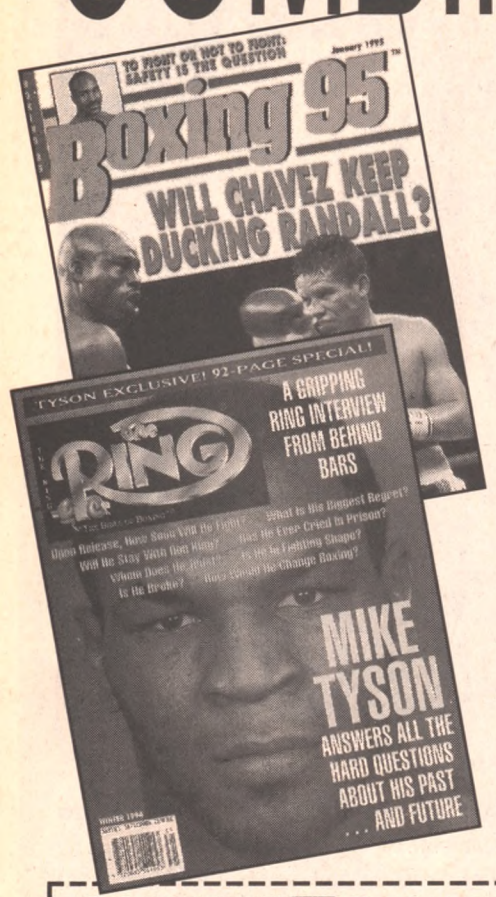

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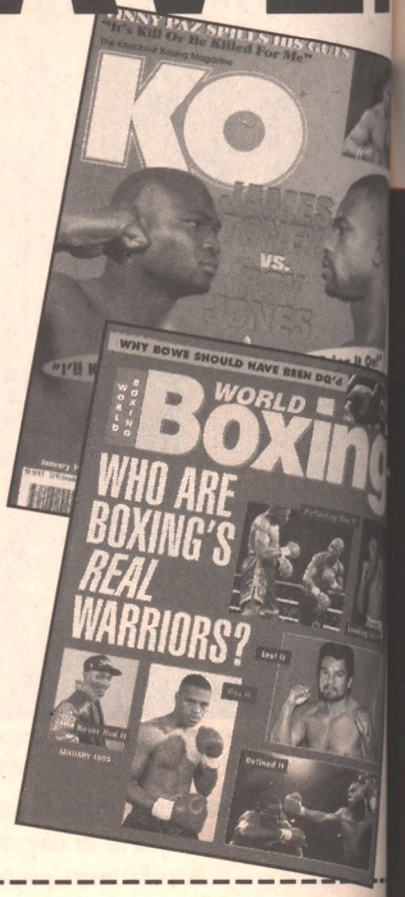

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ROY JONES Whips JAMES TONEY

The Most Dominant Big-Fight Performance In 20 Years

Photos by Tom Casino

By Steve Farhood

In one of the most electrifying big-fight performances in recent history, Roy Jones proved he knew how to fight. What he has to work on is his celebrating. Some fighters would have bathed in champagne. Others would have danced until dawn. Jones? After baffling James Toney for 12 rounds and winning the IBF super middleweight title at the MGM Grand Garden, he said all the right things ("I'd like to commend James; he's the toughest fighter I ever fought, and he's probably the toughest fighter I ever *will* fight"), then returned to his room and iced his sore hands. After some of that fun, he decided it was time to indulge. Seeking a late-night snack, he passed up the untold delights offered at the victory party and took a few buddies to Kentucky Fried Chicken. Finding KFC closed, he settled for french fries at McDonald's. What a wild and crazy guy.

Even when inside, Toney couldn't connect with his punches (above). And from long range, Jones' reflexes saved him time and again (right).

Next, Jones visited a friend who had been unable to attend the fight. Then it was back to the MGM Grand and a bit of shut-eye. At 7:30 the next morning, he was up and out, doing three miles of roadwork! Sounds like Bill Murray in *Groundhog Day*. But Jones wasn't reliving his preparation for the fight. "I felt that since I'm now the best fighter in the world," he explained, using the home-spun logic of Satchel Paige, "someone might be gaining on me." Wait, there's more: At noon, Jones and his buddies drove to the UNLV gym and played some hoops. That probably made Toney feel like a shattered backboard.

In fact, from the moment the most anticipated showdown of 1994 was announced, Jones treated the Toney fight as if it were, well, a trip to McDonald's. It was Jones who had to prove himself. Toney had been toughened and tested, but the challenger, despite having reigned as the IBF middleweight champion, just might be overcome by the moment. Really. On the night of the New York City press conference that launched the pre-fight hype, Jones and Toney filmed a commercial promoting their pay-per-view bout. The climax called for a stare-out—and the director called for about 18 takes. Eyeball to eyeball with boxing's angriest man, Jones didn't flinch. If playing *macho* games with Toney was that easy, how tough could fighting him possibly be?

As the fighters jetted from city to city in promotion of their November 18 date, it was Toney who provided the press with all the juicy quotes. Jones was quiet, but barely able to hide his excitement. For the first time he would be seriously challenged, and he was absolutely sure he'd sparkle. "I don't like it when I fight the regular guys," he said. "When you think you're with somebody real good, you go deeper in your bag."

Overcome by the moment? A couple of hours before the fight that would determine the course of his career, Jones was ringside, screaming for stablemate Derrick Gainer, who was dropping a close 10-rounder to unbeaten Los Angeles junior lightweight Roberto Garcia. Thirty minutes before showtime, Jones was shadowboxing to the music in his dressing room. Twenty of his friends and handlers were watching his every move, and he seemed almost *too* relaxed. That changed when a member of Toney's camp was summoned to watch the gloving process. Jones immediately went face to face and launched a five-minute tongue-lashing.

"All week long the guy had been giving me the eye, like *he* was going to fight me," Jones explained. "Now he was facing me when I was my most confident. I just told him, 'Can nobody stop me from doin' what I want to do. No doubt in my mind I imposed my will on him and he brought that feeling right back to Toney's dressing room."

Before climbing through the ropes, Jones resplendent in a black-and-white tuxedo-like robe and accouterments, paused on the ring apron and slowly gyrated his hips. Overcome by the moment? He couldn't wait for it.

Team Jones in celebration: (from left) referee Richard Steele, adviser Stan Levin, Jones, and adviser Fred Levin. Behind Jones is trainer Alton Merkerson.

That Jones, a 6-5 underdog, did as he pleased against Toney surprised everyone but the winner. Jones has been overflowing with confidence ever since he was disqualified for failing to make weight (100 pounds) as a 14-year-old at the Regional Junior Olympics in 1983. "A lot of people were disappointed when I didn't get to fight, so I figured I must've been pretty good," he recalled. "Right after, I remember going running and deciding, *From now on, whoever faces me is gonna be in trouble*." The next year, Jones won the *National* Junior Olympics title and was named outstanding boxer of the competition. He feels he hasn't been legitimately beaten since.

For all his boxing ability and bluster and big-fight experience, Toney, ranked no worse than second on the pound-for-pound lists, proved no match at all. After the weigh-in, Alton Merkerson, Jones' trainer, spouted the It'll-Be-Up-To-*Them*-To-Stop *Us* philosophy of a John Wooden or a Vince Lombardi. "Roy's a boxer, and we're gonna box Toney," he said. "Nobody's hit Roy yet. I don't know why people think Toney will."

Toney, 167, Ann Arbor, Michigan, seemed too slow even while staring down Jones, 168, Pensacola, Florida, following his ring entrance; Toney stood motionless, while Jones, sleek and beautifully muscled, bopped up and down and hinted at his fight plan by offering different angles. The challenger was conservative in round one, probably because he missed early with a

(Continued on page 70)

BOXING'S ANGRIEST YOUNG MAN

During his championship runs at 160 and 168 pounds, James Toney was as infamous for his temper as he was famous for his fists. That's when Toney was *winning*. As a result, it came as no surprise when, after losing the IBF super middleweight title to Roy Jones, Toney went bonkers.

Two days after the fight, Toney stormed out of a meeting at the West Bloomfield, Michigan, home of manager Jackie Kallen. The pow-wow included Kallen's husband and Sherri Toney, the fighter's mother. According to the *New York Post*, Toney told Sherri he was going to return home, make a selection from his extensive gun collection, and "shoot up Jackie and her whole bleeping family." The police were told of the threat, but Toney never returned to the Kallen home, and no charges were filed.

Photo by Darryl Coulman

The lady and the champ in happier times

One day later, Toney confronted Kallen on a Detroit radio show, calling her a "ho" and saying, "Take your money until July and then get out." (Their contract runs through July 1995.)

Toney's resentment reportedly stems from Kallen's recommendation that the fighter exercise a rematch clause and again face Jones at 168 pounds. After losing to Jones, Toney blamed his performance on struggling to make weight. Moreover, it's been suggested Toney resents Kallen's affinity for the spotlight.

"To say I wasn't hurt, I wasn't stunned, I wasn't horrified, I'd be lying," Kallen told THE RING. "I don't think I figured James to flip out like he did. Until we regroup, it would be foolish to predict the future."

–Steve Farhood

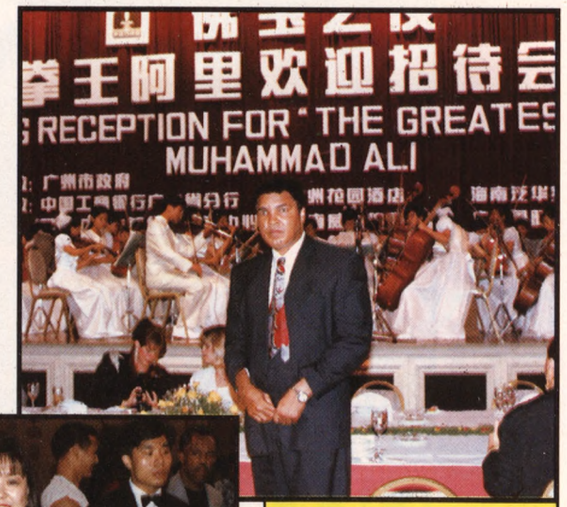
Muhammad Ali in China

"I Feel So Good, I Guess I'll Have To Make A Comeback"

Ali is greeted by Allen Pan, deputy general manager of the luxurious Garden Hotel in Guangzhou. Everywhere he went, "The Greatest" drew smiles.

Maybe Ali can't jab as well as he could in his fighting days, but his hands remain a blur when he works his mystifying sleight-of-hand magic tricks.

Louis Chung, the Garden Hotel's general manager, tries for a double knockout. From left: Former WBA heavyweight champion Mike Weaver, cruiserweight Mike Sedillo, former heavyweight contender David Bey, and boxing official Marty Denkin.



What goes through Ali's mind when he's honored as the greatest fighter of the century? It's an honor he's likely to receive again and again.

If Ali, with wife Lonnie and Garden Hotel staffer Christine Chan, is indeed going to make a comeback, he's going to have to start watching those calories.

By Jack Welsh

If the notion ever moved him, Muhammad Ali could launch a second career as a mime/magic act. The three-time former heavyweight champion called on all his tricks on a recent trip to China, where he was honored as "Pugilist Of The Century."

For "The Greatest," it was a two-fold venture: Ali, his wife Lonnie, and photographer/best friend Howard Bingham jetted over from San Francisco to help Harold Smith's Global Sports Network and the China Xinghau Group lay the groundwork for pro boxing shows in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou (formerly Canton), and the peninsula of Macau. There was a card in Macau, headlined by Mike Weaver's knockout of Bill Corrigan.

Always a master of protocol, Ali both impressed and entertained Chinese and Portuguese big-wigs during the seven-day junket, especially with his sleight-of-hand repertoire, using coins, handkerchiefs, and thimbles.

Ali was particularly well-received in the Borja section of Macau, where he visited a facility housing 200 aged and homeless men, many of them veterans of World War II. Said Sister Alphonsa, an administrator at the facility, "When the men heard Ali was coming, they all started acting like schoolboys. When Ali wasn't shaking hands or signing autographs, he made the men howl with his famed shuffle."

Each morning and afternoon, Ali visited at least three hospitals and institutions. As he bent down to kiss a patient on the cheek, his touch was soft, as if he were handling a China doll that might break. There was a tear in his eye. At another hospital, a nurse told Ali, "Everyone here was a throwaway child, unwanted by parents at birth." Responded Ali, "Those kids are the true champions. They have to fight so hard for life. Me? I'm merely a player in life."

Every city hosted a lavish banquet for Ali's traveling group, with more than 1,500 buying tickets at the posh Garden Hotel in Guangzhou. There was a 12-course meal and endless *gambay* (toasts) "to friendship for China and the United States."

At the Oriental Mandarin Hotel, Ali was honored as Pugilist of the Century and presented with the Jimmy Lennon Sr. Memorial Award. Said Dr. Jose Sales, the mayor of Macau, "We eagerly welcome Muhammad Ali and boxing into Macau at this high level, and hope you come back many, many times."

Rising slowly, the guest of honor pursed his lips, clearly milking the moment. "This is such a wonderful night," he said. "I feel so good, I guess I'll have to make a comeback." ■

Jack Welsh, who traveled with Ali to China, is THE RING'S *correspondent in Las Vegas.*

Buy George!

THE MARKETING OF A 46-YEAR-OLD PHENOMENON

By **Ron Borges**

There's a new name for the George Foreman phenomenon on the street, where name recognition counts most. On Madison Avenue, it's said the new heavyweight champion of the world has "cuddleability."

"Honest to God," said Henry Holmes, Foreman's Beverly Hills-based lawyer, less than a week after Foreman became not only the oldest man to win the heavyweight title, but the oldest to win *any* world title. "I told one ad guy that if I told George he had cuddleability, I'd look like Michael Moorer."

Right now, the Big George look—fat, bald, and smiling—is what most corporations, both here and abroad, are looking to sell. It's been that way ever since Foreman made Moorer look like a guy in a Sealy Posturepedic commercial. The search for that image has already put Foreman into position to become rich beyond his or anyone else's wildest imagination.

Since Foreman lifted heavyweight boxing back onto the front page and middle-aged baby-boomers out of their recliners with his stunning two-punch, 10th-round knockout of Moorer *(see sidebar on page 26)*, Holmes and Foreman's chief publicist, Mort Sharnik, have been flooded with more than 200 business proposals and endorsement deal offers. Not surprisingly, they've come in all manners and shapes.

He has been offered $100,000 just to come and *sit* with someone at a fight. He's been offered kids' games, including George Foreman POGS, the latest West Coast craze soon to be at a store near you, and a deal to serve as a spokesman for an international hotel chain.

He's been offered *The George Foreman Cookbook*, and when told the heavyweight champion doesn't cook, the pitchman told Holmes, "Okay, his part will just be about eating." He's received a huge bump up in his advance for his autobiography, a deal negotiated with Random House before the Moorer fight. He's been offered movies, an animated cartoon using his name and face and maybe even his voice, inspirational tapes, a European speaking tour, and something called the George Foreman Hamburger Maker, although that one will never see the light of day.

"I asked to see the product," Holmes said. "The guy said he didn't have it yet. I asked him, 'How you endorse a product if you don't have the product?' The guy said, 'Don't worry about it. We'll get the product.' We turned them down."

While three lawyers in Holmes' firm have been tending to the commercial endorsements that have poured in, Sharnik was holed up in a Houston hotel room in the weeks after the fight, fielding appearance and interview requests from, among others, the United Nations and the White House. There's also been a star-wars battle scene between network morning talk and evening magazine shows.

The battle to secure the first nationally televised postfight interview with Foreman was unparalleled. Peter Jennings sent a personal letter requesting Foreman's cooperation in being named Man of the Week on the ABC nightly news. Every morning show, every network magazine show, *Entertainment Tonight*, everybody with a TV camera and a remote crew wanted Foreman. What finally landed him first on ABC's *PrimeTime Live* was a call from network president Roone Arledge, a friend of long-standing of promoter Bob Arum, dating back to the days when ABC actually did broadcast a fight or two.

"He said, 'Bob, we go back a long way,'" said Arum, who promotes Foreman's fights. "He told me how important it was to his network to get George first. Boxing couldn't get a mention on those shows before George won, unless it was a scandal. If they had called anyone in boxing

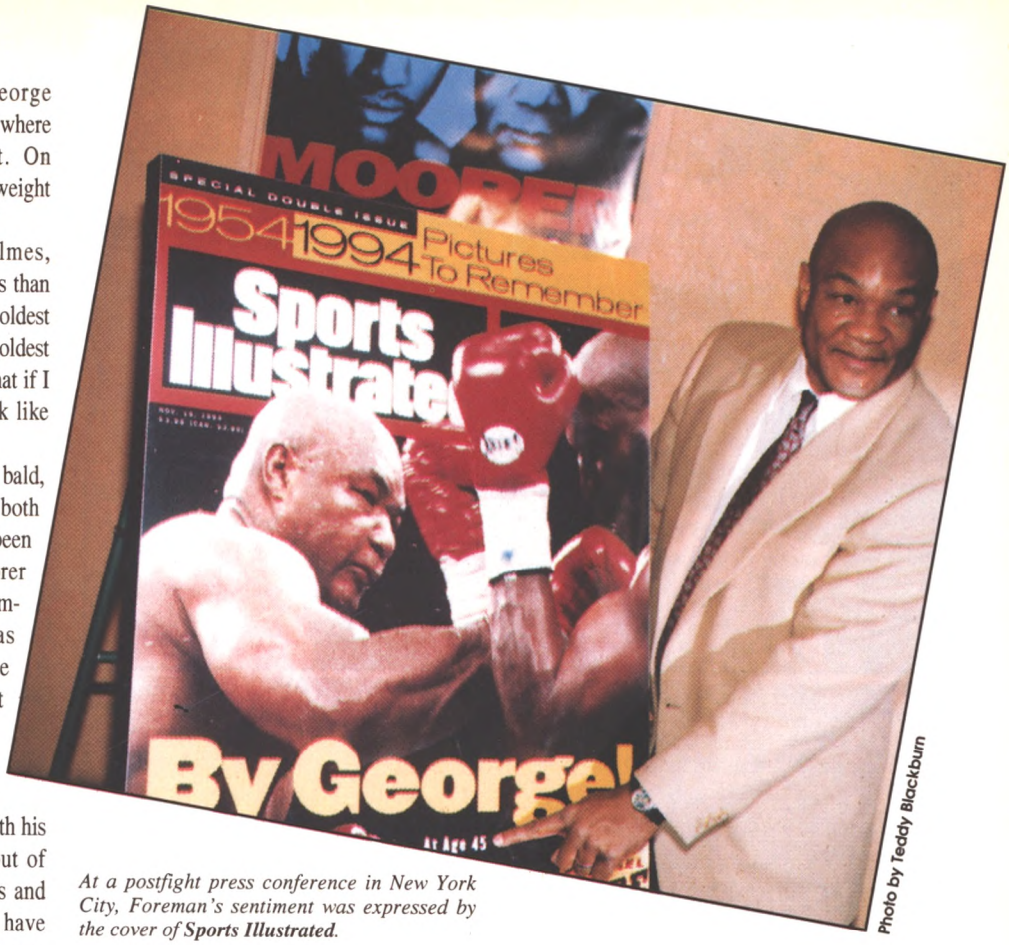


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

At a postfight press conference in New York City, Foreman's sentiment was expressed by the cover of ***Sports Illustrated****.*

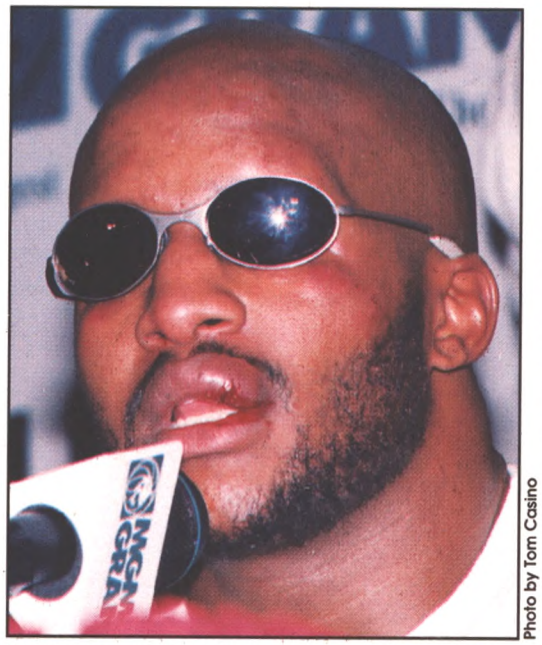


Photo by Tom Casino

Michael Moorer, who wore the wounds of war, was a particularly gracious loser. Foreman's 10th-round kayo punch opened a cut on his lip that took 14 stitches to close.

Photo by Holly Stein/Allsport

For nine-plus rounds, Moorer easily beat Foreman to the punch, especially with his southpaw jab. But in the 10th, Foreman did with one punch what Moorer had failed to do with more than 300.

before, you wouldn't want anything to do with it because they'd be accusing somebody of fixing fights or phony ratings or a death in boxing."

Those stories have disappeared for now. The AMA, so vocal in its opposition to Foreman even being licensed to get into the ring, has nothing to say now that the soon-to-be (as of January 22) 46-year-old heavyweight is world champion. In fact, no one has anything to say but "where's George?"

"[Jay] Leno and [David] Letterman were ing all the time," Sharnik said from Houston was dueling violins to get George." Letter played the most impressive sonata in M(flat, and Foreman appeared there.

Appearances are only the beginning f man who stands to make between $6-million $10-million out of a fight that ended up gro him about $3-million.

Gambling is what boxing and Las Ve which hosted the fight, are all about, and his improbable comeback began in 1987, n has gambled with his future better than Fore Although Big George still preaches and run youth center, he is no longer a boxing sidesh nor a middle-aged crazy anymore. He is wh always believed he would be. He is not only thirds of the heavyweight champion of the w but also as big as any boxer since the one knocked him out 20 years ago.

"His stock is way up," said Lloyd Ko who matches celebrities with advertisers. just made it for every old, fat, bald person country."

That's exactly what Foreman has been s all along: hope that it ain't over until it's over. As Foreman proved to Moorer, it's als

(Continued on pag

THE ONE-PUNCH MIRACLE

George Foreman climbed through the ropes a 3-1 underdog against WBA/IBF heavyweight champion Michael Moorer at the MGM Grand Garden on November 5. After a few rounds, it seemed the odds should have been *30*-1. Moorer, only the second southpaw opponent in Foreman's 77-fight pro career, was jabbing with precision, boxing at a comfortable range, and winning nearly every round. In other words, Big George had him right where he wanted him.

Making his first defense, Moorer, 222, Detroit, was punishing a 45-year-old challenger who hadn't fought in 17 months. Foreman, 250, Houston, seemed baffled. Unable to unleash his once-dominant jab, he could do nothing but walk in and hope to connect with his heavy right.

"The hardest part of the fight is over," trainer Teddy Atlas told Moorer after the first round. "Our sparring partners were tougher."

Foreman's effective punches could be counted on one hand. He scored with a straight right in the third and another in the sixth, and in the seventh he drove Moorer to the ropes. Still, there was hope; Moorer was foolishly moving to his left—and into the range of Foreman's only weapon.

After nine rounds, both Chuck Giampa and Jerry Roth had Moore in front by 88-83, and in one of the worst cards of the year, Duane Fo saw the champion ahead only by 86-85. (All three judges are from th USA.) Nothing short of a miracle was going to save Foreman, who wa seeking to regain the title 20 years after having lost it to Muhammad A in Zaire. That miracle came two-thirds of the way through the 10t when Big George, 73-4 (68), shook Moorer, 35-1 (30), with a left-rig A moment later, another one-two caught the left-hander on the ja Moorer crashed to the canvas, his arms spread and his legs flying i the air. He lifted his head as referee J Cortez (USA) began flashing his finge but could do no better than roll over by t count of 10. The time of the knockout: 2: of the 10th.

Photo by Holly Stein/Allsport

"I had the power," said Foreman. "I finally couldn't take it anymore."

The realization that he had accom plished the impossible didn't seem to ov whelm Foreman. He calmly stepped to corner, knelt down, and looked to the he ens. Certainly no one else was capable an explanation.

Special Section

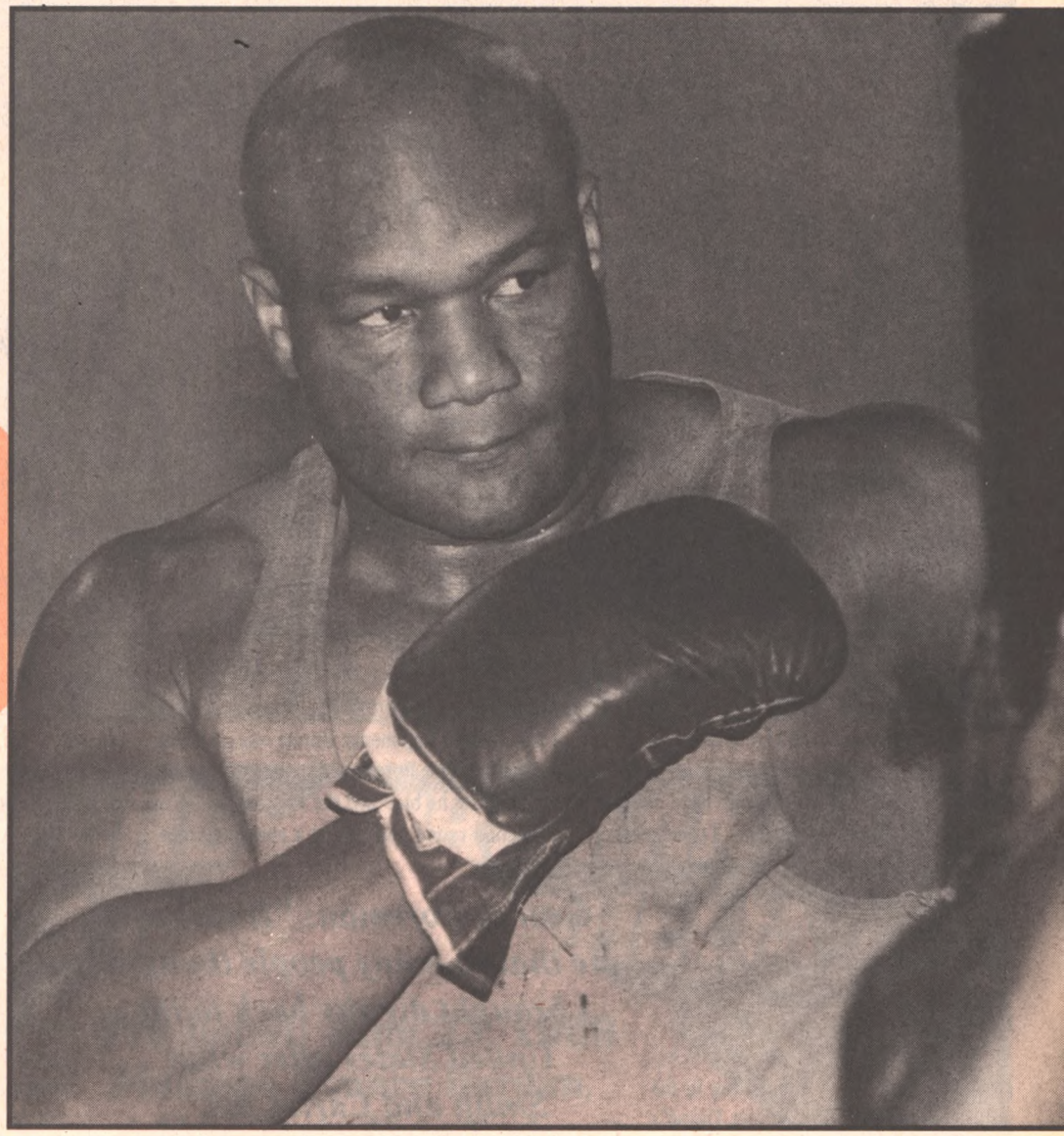
THE 20 FIGHTS THAT MADE GEORGE FOREMAN

Section Compiled by Steve Farhood

One-hit wonders be damned. The secret to long-lasting success is reinventing yourself. Muhammad Ali did it. Madonna and Michael Jackson have done it. And Big George Foreman has been doing it ever since he won the gold medal at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. By now, no one is sure just who the real George is; he's been labeled everything from a superhero to a phony. But we measure our fighters by what they do in the ring, and there's nothing more real than the right hand Foreman landed to regain the heavyweight championship on November 5.

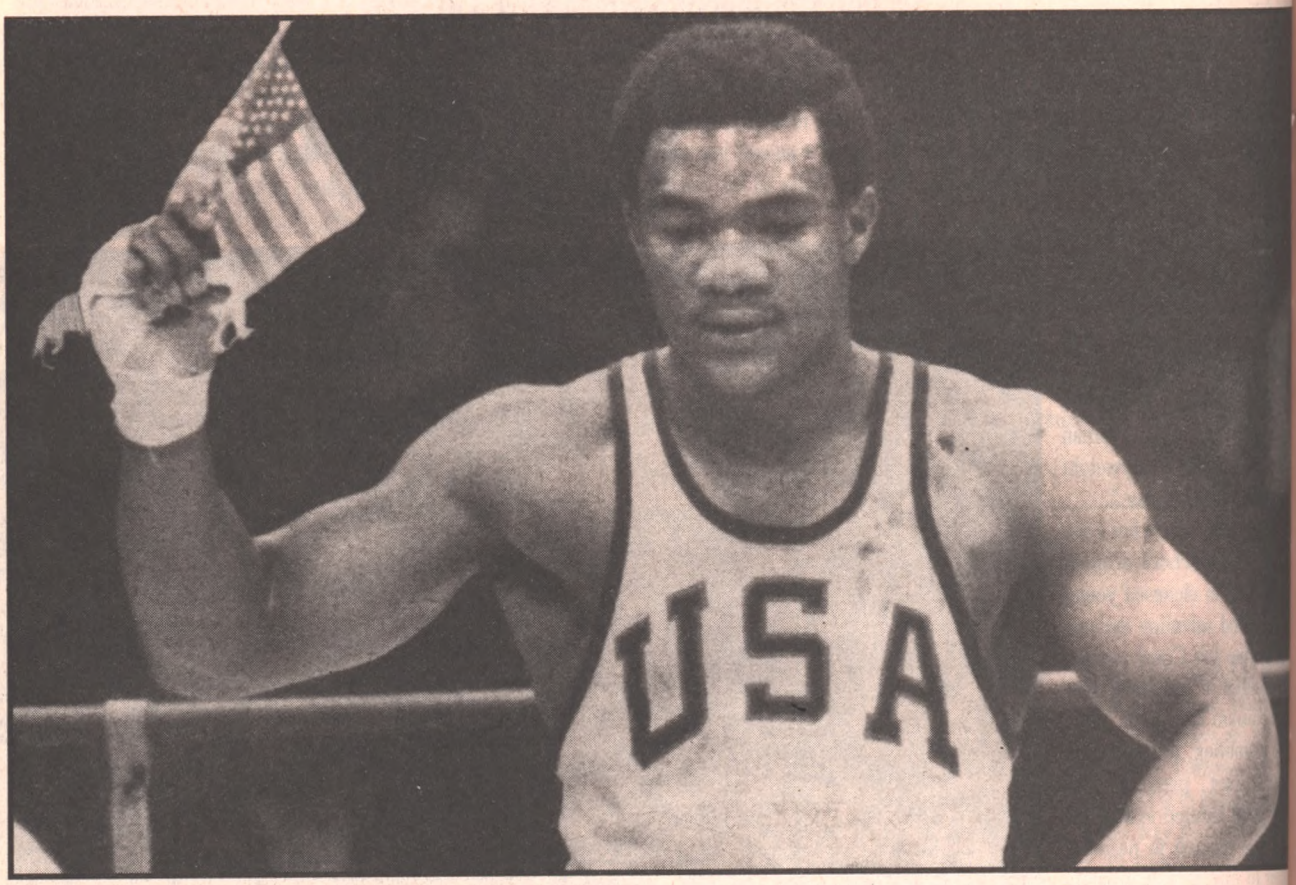
In 26 years, Foreman has gone from junior high school dropout and street thug to cleansed young man who found salvation through boxing and the Job Corps to flag-waving symbol of red-white-and-blue patriotism to mean, surly bully to crumbling, tortured hulk to small-town preacher to beloved, good-natured symbol of middle-aged paunch to national huckster to one-punch miracle worker. With Foreman having regained the heavyweight championship of the world, who knows what will come next. Be sure of one thing, though: Now that Big George's impossible dream has been realized, he's going to cash in. In the two weeks following his knockout victory over Michael Moorer, Foreman received no less than 125 endorsement offers. And should he defend against a comeback Mike Tyson in late-1995 or 1996, he will be the co-featured player in the first $100-million fight in history. Forget the calendar. As Foreman puts it, "I've got a future in front of me."

In the following special section, we've traced Foreman's unique journey by examining the 20 biggest fights of his career. You won't find too many common threads, and there are a lot more variables than constants. If there's a lesson to be learned from the phenomenon of Big George Foreman, it's that if you keep reinventing yourself, you'll never grow old.



GEORGE FOREMAN KO 2 IONES CHEPULIS

(Wins Olympic Gold Medal)
October 26, 1968
Areno Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico



When track stars John Carlos and Tommy Smith approached the black members of the U.S. Olympic boxing team about joining them in a political protest, Foreman, a 19-year-old junior high school dropout from Houston, told them, "I came here to fight." And that's what he did, displaying no shortage of black power in outpointing squat Polish southpaw Lucjan Trela, stopping Rumanian left-hander Ion Alexe (TKO 3), and halting Italy's Giorgio Bamini (TKO 2).

Still, Foreman, the national AAU champion, was a slight underdog in the gold medal match. The Soviet Union's Chepulis, a hardened 31-year-old veteran of international competition, had stopped all three of his Olympic opponents. But he was no match for Big George. Foreman dominated with his jab, and after he bloodied the Russian's nose in the second round and forced a standing eight-count, the bout was stopped at the 2:33 mark

"I never believed I'd win the gold medal," he said.

It was what happened next, however, that became the first defining moment of Foreman's public life. After he was declared the winner, he bowed to the judges and fans while waving a tiny American flag. The entire world was watching, and Foreman became an instant hero.

"I waved it because I wanted to show just how proud I was to be an American," he said. "I didn't mean it to be a political protest or anything. I was just so happy about winning."

George Foreman: "It tickled me that so many people thought I brought dignity back to the United States after what Smith and Carlos did."

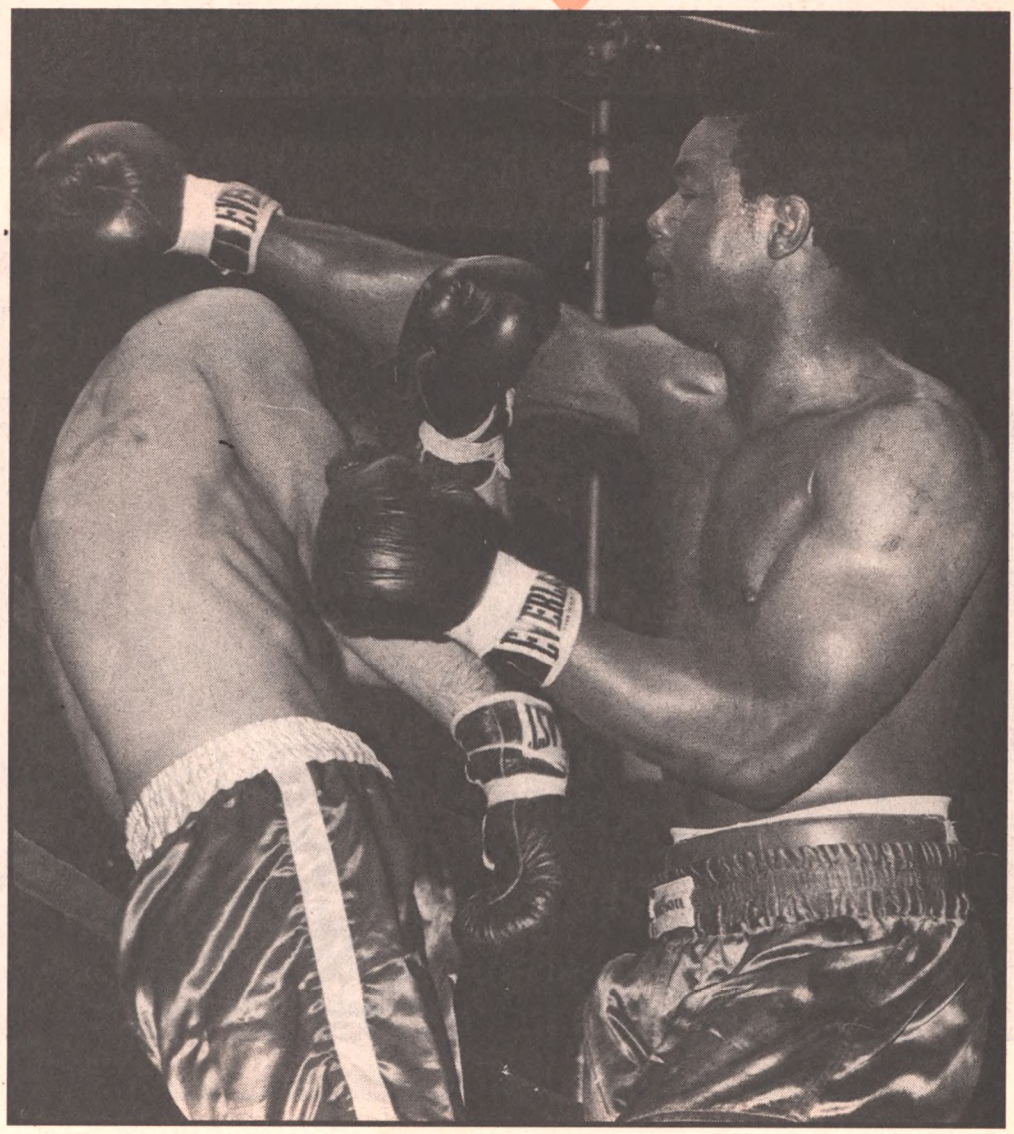
If Foreman instantly established himself as a national hero after winning the gold and waving the red-white-and-blue in Mexico City, why was he booed after his pro debut? Only eight months after his Olympic triumph, Big George wasn't suddenly unpopular. Rather, it had to do with his fighting style. When a ponderous puncher scores a clean kayo, the fans go home energized and satisfied. But when he fails to connect, or when a smaller, weaker foe extends him, the fight can turn ugly, if not embarrassing. As Foreman put it, "He was running and boxing. A guy like that will make a slugger look bad."

In a scheduled six-rounder underneath Joe Frazier-Jerry Quarry I, Foreman squared off against 1964 New York Golden Gloves light heavyweight champion Don Waldhelm, a 6'3", 187-pound part-time pro who climbed through the ropes with a record of 5-4-2. In rounds one and two, Foreman unleashed a handful of roundhouse rights. Most of the blows were off-target, but Waldhelm, sensing danger, kept his distance. In the third, the New Yorker suffered a cut on his right eyelid, then covered up as Foreman exploded with a flurry. Waldhelm collapsed to the canvas and was counted out at the 1:54 mark by referee Zack Clayton.

"I hit him with a solid left hand that landed just under the heart," said Foreman. "I heard him go, 'Oh.' That's when I knew he was in trouble."

Waldhelm, 30, never fought again. Foreman, 20, was just getting started. What was ahead would make for one of the most fascinating chapters in heavyweight history.

Don Waldhelm: "Getting hit by George was like going to the dentist and getting a shot of Novocaine. I remember my lips being very numb."

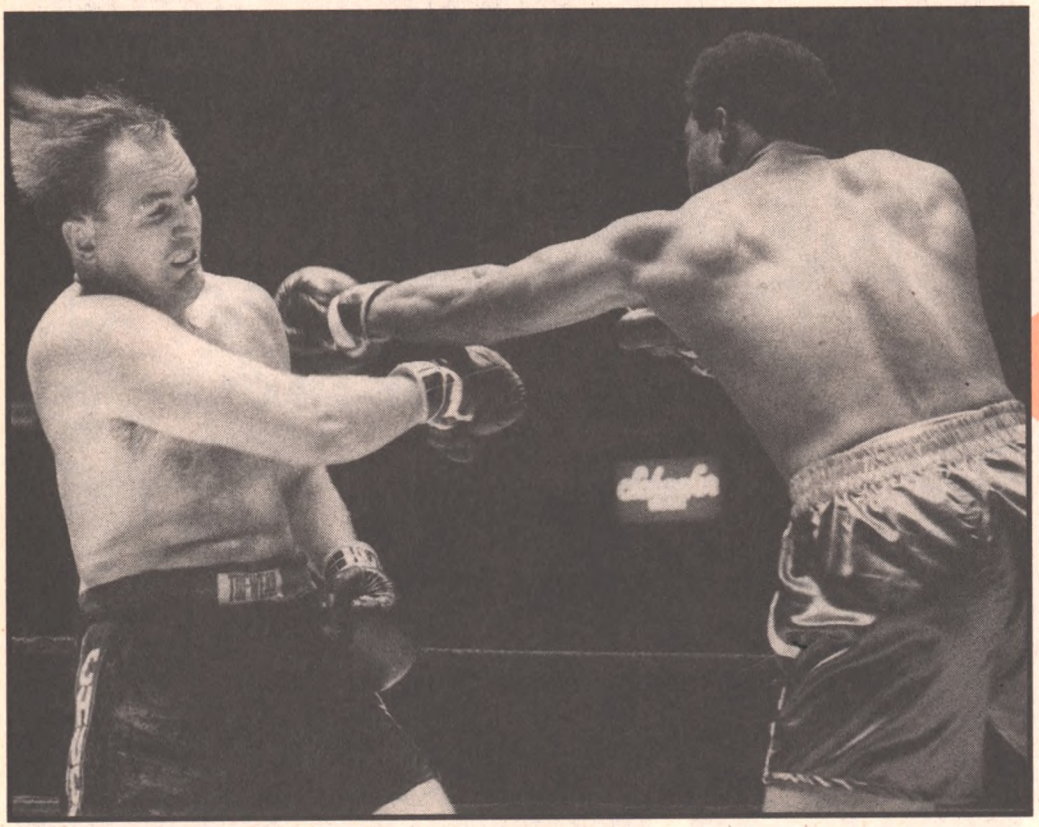


GEORGE FOREMAN KO 3 DON WALDHELM

(Pro Debut) June 23, 1969
Madison Square Garden,
New York, New York

GEORGE FOREMAN KO 3 CHUCK WEPNER

August 18, 1969
Madison Square Garden,
New York, New York



Chuck Wepner: "He was so heavy-handed, it was like getting hit with a bat. In the third round he landed a left hook flush on the jaw. My manager said it sounded like a cannon exploding."

A framed photo hangs on the wall of "The Bayonne Bleeder's" living room: Foreman is on the canvas, looking up at the menacing, 6'5" Chuck Wepner. No, it's not trick photography.

"I think it was the second round," Wepner recalled. "He threw a hook and missed. I stepped back and hit him with an overhand right. I kind of caught him on the side of the head and he went down. But it really was a slip [as it was ruled], and not much of a punch. The way he threw that hook, missing it, he was going down anyway."

In Foreman's fourth pro fight, and less than two months after turning pro, Big George was matched with a 26-fight veteran who, in 1975, would challenge Muhammad Ali for the world title. Not that Wepner was viewed as any kind of threat. "I was big and strong, and I used to bully most guys around," he said. "But I couldn't do that with Foreman."

Scaling only 213 and spotting Wepner eight pounds, Foreman controlled the first six minutes with his jab. In the second round, he opened a cut over Wepner's left eye that would take 14 stitches to close. When the cut worsened, referee Johnny Colon called a halt at the 54-second mark of the third.

"Going in," said Wepner, "all I knew about Foreman was that he was the Olympic champ. But I was impressed with him. He had the same kind of jab as Sonny Liston."

Foreman was 4-0 (4), but having engaged fewer than 30 amateur bouts, he was still raw and crude. Fortunately, no one was rushing him. However, Big George knew his time would come. In fact, he was already studying Frazier. And what he saw made him even more confident than stoppage victories over the likes of Chuck Wepner.

The way boxing insiders saw it, fight number 22 might as well have been fight number one. Canadian veteran George Chuvalo was Foreman's first name opponent. The *other* George had sampled the punches of the best heavyweights in the world, from Ernie Terrell and Muhammad Ali to Joe Frazier and Floyd Patterson. In 76 fights, Chuvalo had been stopped only once (by Frazier) and never floored.

Foreman-Chuvalo drew a crowd of 12,526 to the Garden, including Patterson, Jimmy Ellis, and Jerry Quarry, all of whom came to scout Big George. They didn't get to see much. In the first and second rounds, Foreman hammered Chuvalo with his ramrod jab, shredding the underdog's lips and forming a bump on his forehead. In the third, a hook moved Chuvalo to the ropes, and Foreman revved his engine. His gloves by his cheeks, Chuvalo remained on his feet. Still, at the 1:41 mark, referee Arthur Mercante intervened.

"[Chuvalo] wasn't defending himself," Mercante explained. "He didn't do a thing. He was just taking punishment."

Predictably, Chuvalo's take was a bit different. When Mercante stepped in, the heavyweight screamed at the referee, "Are you nuts or something?"

The fight proved very little, other than, as the *New York Post's* Larry Merchant wrote, "[Foreman] showed that his fists can take anything that Chuvalo's jaw could dish out."

Secure in the knowledge that he belonged with world-class heavyweights, Foreman seemed ready for a jump in class. Curiously, his next 15 opponents, encountered over the course of 2½ years, would be second-level at best. It seemed a strange way to prepare for the 16th opponent, the heavyweight champion of the world.

George Chuvalo: "Foreman didn't maximize his leverage, but his arms were so powerful, it didn't matter. Joe Frazier's punch was like getting hit at 100 miles per hour by a Pontiac. Foreman's punch was like getting hit at 50 miles per hour by a Mack truck."

GEORGE FOREMAN KO 3 GEORGE CHUVALO

August 4, 1970
Madison Square Garden
New York, New York

GEORGE FOREMAN KO 2 JOE FRAZIER

(Wins World Heavyweight Title)
January 22, 1973
National Stadium, Kingston, Jamaica

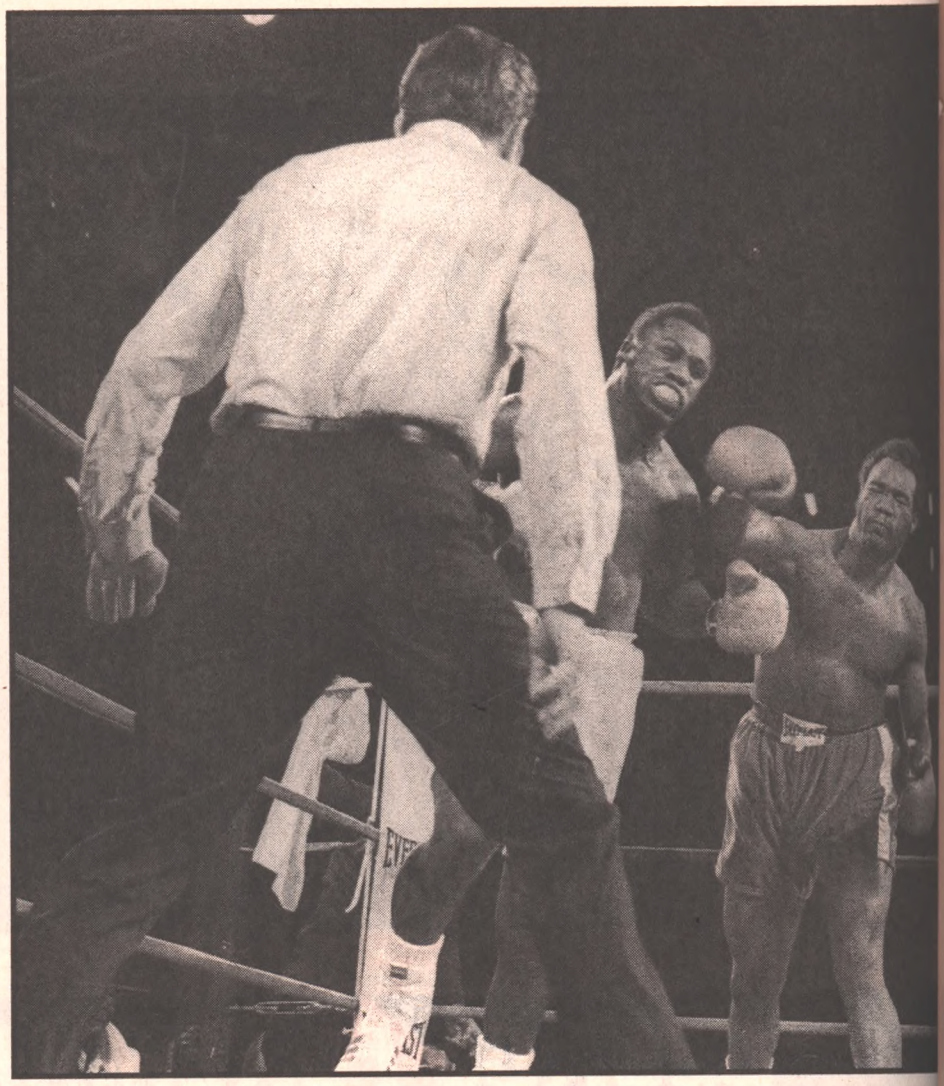
In retrospect, it seems so foolish that defending heavyweight champion Joe Frazier was a 3-1 favorite to reject the challenge of unbeaten 1968 Olympic gold medal winner Foreman. After all, Frazier was a short, stocky puncher, whereas the heavyhanded Foreman, 37-0 (34), was massive. Moreover, Frazier scaled an alarmingly high 214 pounds. But the champion had defeated Muhammad Ali, and in the eyes of the oddsmakers and bettors, that made all the difference.

Frazier wasn't scared of Foreman, though a bit of fear might have been advisable. "Joe never got as serious as he should have been," said Eddie Futch, Frazier's trainer. "He didn't take George seriously."

At the weigh-in, the fighters engaged in a lengthy stare-out. Only one line was spoken: "I'm gonna sit you on the ground, George."

During the fight, it was Frazier who sat down, suffering a humiliating six knockdowns in 4½ minutes. Walking in and then pushing Frazier back in order to establish punching room, Foreman scored three knockdowns in the first round and three more in the second. Frazier kept picking himself up, and, incredibly, when referee Arthur Mercante waved the fight over at 1:35 of round two, the champion was still on his feet.

"I knew in the first round what was going to happen, but I think Joe knew it sooner," said Foreman. "I hit him with a punch in the first round, and there was a look on his face like, 'Man, you're gonna kill me.'"



Eddie Futch (Frazier's trainer): "Kenny Norton had been sparring with Joe for three years, and on the first day, he got the better of the workout. It was the first time that had happened in three years. And on the second day, it happened again."

The newly crowned world heavyweight champion was doing little to alter his image as a dour, bonebreaking bully. It was seemingly out of character, then, when he said, "If I had my way, I wouldn't fight no contenders at all."

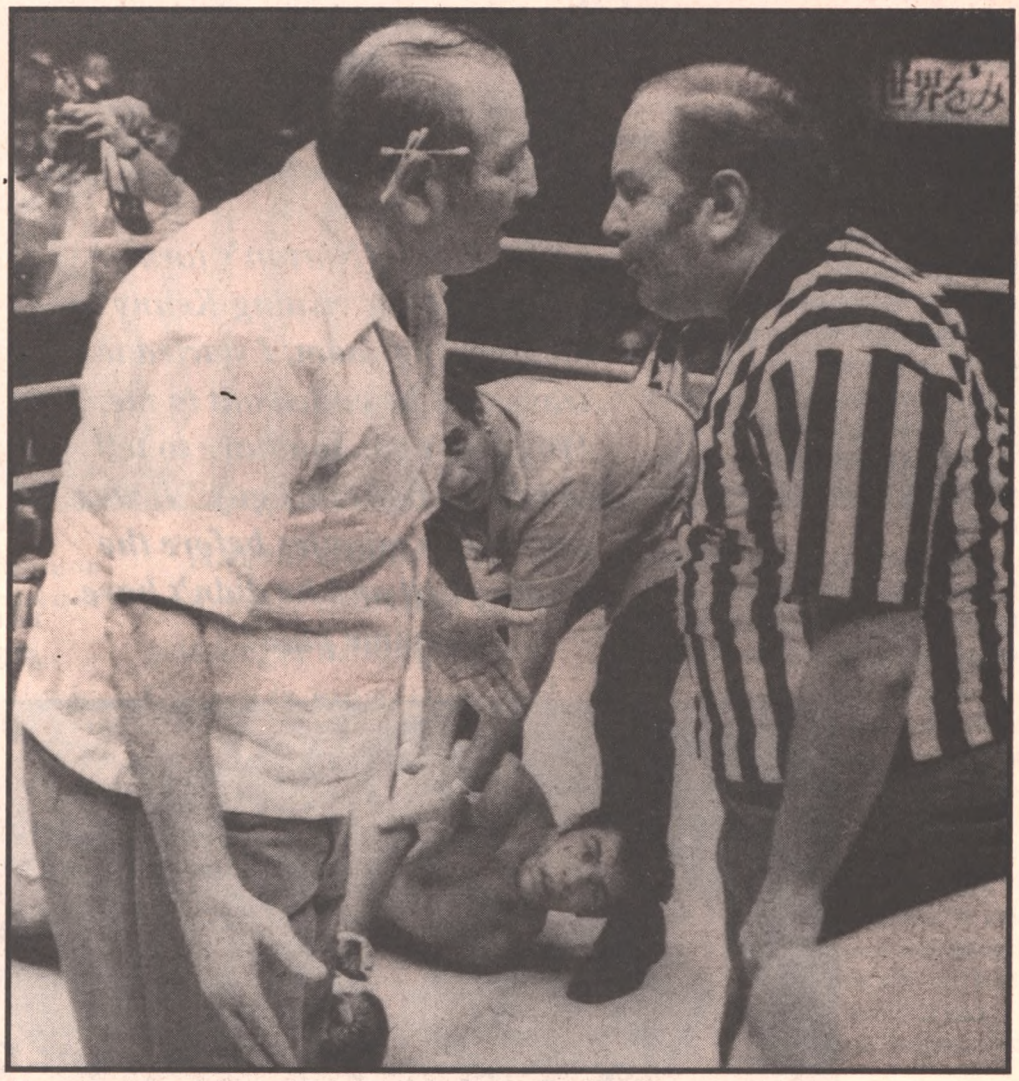
Whether Puerto Rico's 25-year-old Joe Roman, 46-7-1, was a contender or not was debatable. (He was ranked in the top 10 by both the WBA and WBC.) Regardless, after dethroning a champion the quality of Joe Frazier, Foreman intended to exercising his right to schedule at least one gimme.

The first heavyweight title fight in Japan lasted all of 120 seconds. Foreman first floored Roman with a right to the body. The second knockdown was produced by a two-fisted flurry. The third, after which Roman was counted out by referee Jay Edson, was the result of a right uppercut.

The only entertainment was provided by Roman's trainer, Al Braverman, and Roman's manager, Bill Daly, who claimed Foreman hit Roman while the challenger was down (after the first knockdown). "There was unbelievable screaming," recalled Braverman. "I was screaming at Edson, 'Give him five minutes [to recover], give him 10 minutes!' I was trying to buy some time, trying to extend it a couple of rounds. For Foreman, Roman was just a piece of meat."

When asked what he had thought of Roman, Foreman answered, "I didn't see much of him." Big George's challengers, of course, would get tougher. But there was no guarantee that Foreman, who hadn't gone past two rounds in seven bouts, would see much of them, either.

Al Braverman (Roman's trainer): "Roman was a good fighter, a decent journeyman. But when George folded his arms and just glared, it was enough to make Joe s___ in his pants."



GEORGE FOREMAN KO 1 JOE ROMAN

(Retains World Heavyweight Title)
September 1, 1973
Martial Arts Hall, Tokyo, Japan

GEORGE FOREMAN KO 2 KEN NORTON

(Retains World Heavyweight Title)
March 26, 1974
El Poliedro, Caracas, Venezuela

Big George only had to punch Ken Norton, not kick him, which is why Foreman's second defense came off on schedule. Ten hours before the fight, a limping Foreman was taken to the hospital with an inflamed right knee. Had Norton utilized lateral movement and extended the bout into the later rounds, Foreman's injury might have cost him the title. But the challenger foolishly elected to turn macho.

"He tried to prove he was a puncher," said Foreman. "I had to prove I was a *better* puncher."

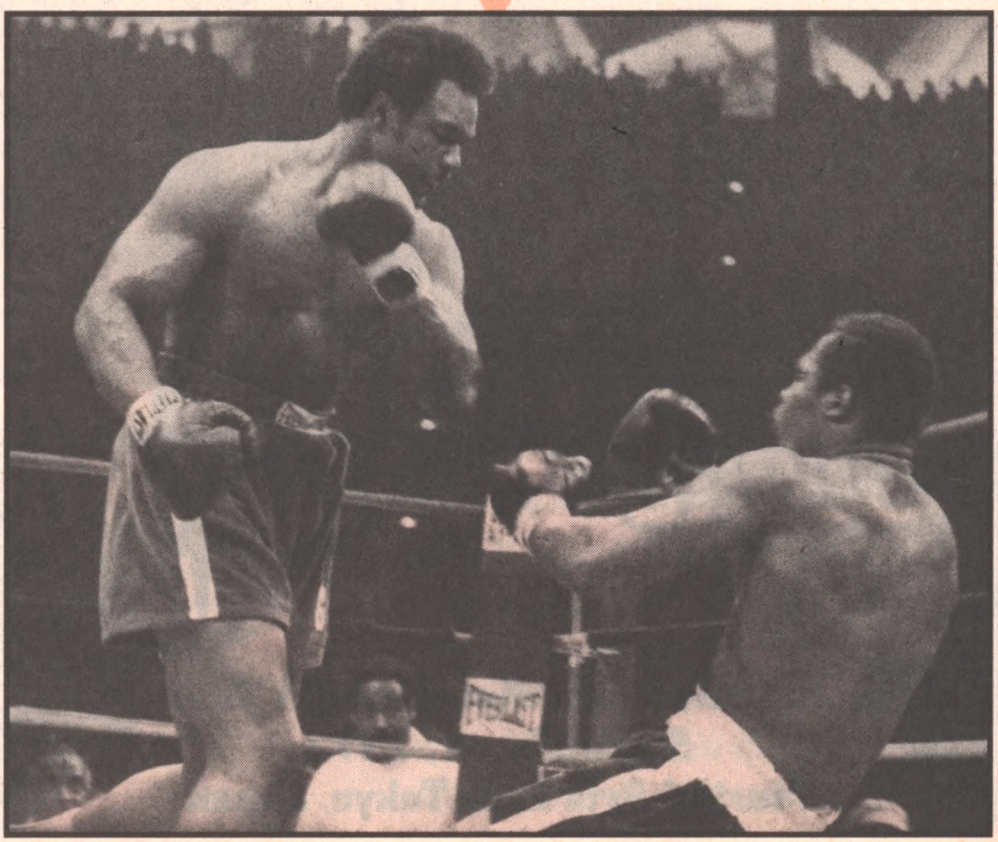
In the first round, Norton jabbed tentatively as Foreman moved in. In the second, the challenger decided Big George was easy to hit with a left hook. He moved into his punching range, which happened to be Foreman's range, too. Foreman landed a crushing right, prompting referee Jimmy Rondeau to a standing eight-count. A followup flurry br another standing-eight. Then a hook duced a legitimate knockdown. Bill S ton, Norton's trainer, surrendered a second before Rondeau was going to vene. The time of the stoppage was 2 round two. It was Foreman's 25th cons tive knockout.

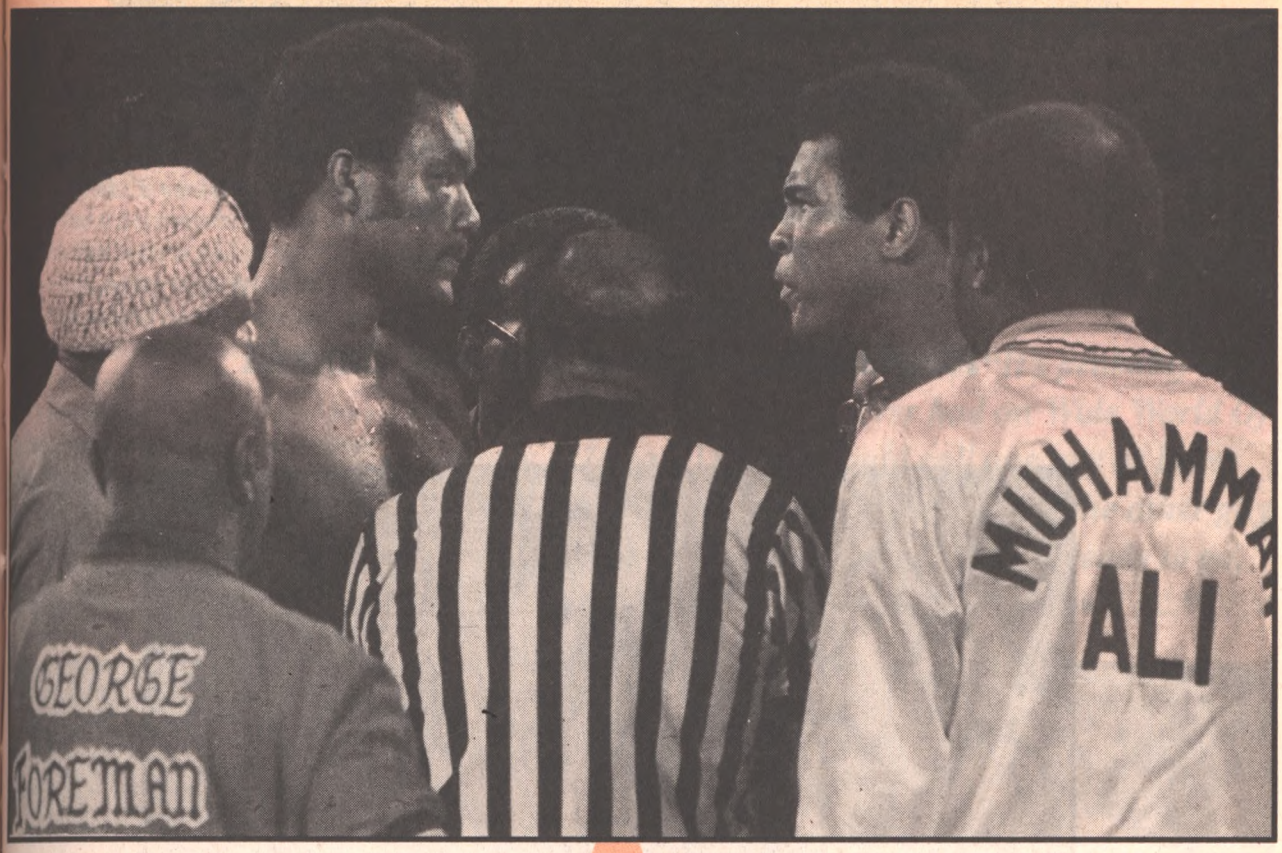
Eddie Futch (Norton's former trainer): "After visiting Kenny in the dressing room, I started to leave and he called out to me, 'You can't go. You have to tell me how to fight this guy.' It was only a few minutes before the opening bell and he didn't have a game plan!"

"It's a misconception that Norton scared of Foreman before the fight ed," said Eddie Futch, Norton's for trainer. "He just got hit."

And when Big George hit you ...

"I think I can whip [Muhammad] A two rounds," Foreman said of his next lenger. Almost no one argued with him.





"My opponents didn't worry about losing to me. They worried about getting hurt."

What Foreman said was simply a matter of fact. And no one wanted to see former champion and 7-1 underdog Muhammad Ali get hurt. Suddenly vulnerable, the 32-year-old once-Greatest had fallen at the feet of Joe Frazier and suffered a broken jaw against Ken Norton. According to *Sports Illustrated*, " ... unbeknownst to all, Foreman claimed he had handed his trainer, Dick Sadler, $25,000 to give to referee Zack Clayton—not to bribe him, but to make sure he pulled Foreman away from Ali so Foreman wouldn't hit Ali when he was down and be disqualified."

It didn't quite happen that way.

Angelo Dundee: "I remember thinking, He's gonna get himself killed. He was in my corner, and I hit him on the butt more than once and screamed, 'Get off the ropes!' I was sure he was on his way through the ropes and out of the ring. Then I started to see how tired Foreman was getting ... "

Attempting to become only the second heavyweight to regain the world title, Ali challenged Foreman in the early-morning hours before a partisan crowd of 60,000. Most insiders figured Ali would jab and dance against the most feared puncher in the world. Instead, he invented the rope-a-dope. Round after round he lay against the ropes and allowed Foreman to wail away. As the fans chanted "Ali *bomaye*" (Ali kill him), Ali was committing professional suicide.

Then, slowly, Foreman began to decelerate. "I didn't know what to do when I got tired," he said. In the eighth round, Ali sprung out of his shell and downed the exhausted champion with a right hand. Clayton counted Foreman out at the 2:58 mark.

No one, it turned out, was invincible. Not even Big George.

MUHAMMAD ALI KO 8 GEORGE FOREMAN

(Regains World Heavyweight Title)
October 30, 1974
Twentieth of May Stadium, Kinshasa, Zaire

GEORGE FOREMAN KO 2 ALONZO JOHNSON; KO 2 JERRY JUDGE; KO 2 TERRY DANIELS; No-Decision 3 CHARLEY POLITE; No-Decision 3 BOONE KIRKMAN

(All bouts exhibitions)
April 26, 1975
Maple Leaf Gardens, Toronto, Canada

Jerry Judge: "I was a last-minute sub for Mac Foster and I had no chance to train. I don't even know why I did it. Turns out it was humiliating for me, and it was humiliating for George, too."

Following his title fight loss to Muhammad Ali, Foreman had something to prove, if not to the world, at least to himself. If he faced fresh fighters in five three-round exhibitions, he would silence the critics who said he couldn't go the distance. Or so he thought.

What was the worst part: That Foreman's five-fighter fiasco was nationally televised on *Wide World Of Sports*? That Ali was ringside, taunting Foreman while working as Howard Cosell's broadcast partner? Or that the crowd of 5,000 chanted, "Ali! Ali! Ali!"?

"I could look down at ringside and see [Ali] was nervous," said a wishful Foreman.

Foreman's opponents, who were paid $7,500 each, were a motley crew. Consider:

•Alonzo Johnson, 40, was a professional sparring partner who hadn't fought a sanctioned bout in more than 10 years. He went down four times in two rounds.

•Jerry Judge hadn't fought in five months. He clocked Foreman with a big right before succumbing. After the bout was stopped, he and Big George exchanged words and engaged in a wrestling match.

•Terry Daniels, who had challenged Joe Frazier for the title in 1972, fell three time two rounds.

•Charley Polite, who had lost 14 of his la bouts, infuriated Foreman by giving him a kis ing the prefight staredown, then lasting the dist

•Boone Kirkman trained with shoulder because of a pinched nerve in his neck crashed once but also managed to navigat nine-minute distance.

"It was crazy," said Judge, a retired po officer and now a full-time student. "George nothing to gain by it. At the time, his head wasn't screwed on straight."

Like every fight fan, ABC boxing analyst Alex Wallau remembers the Foreman-Ron Lyle brawl as if it happened a half-hour ago. At the time of the fight, Wallau, then a producer of on-air promotion, was in his first week with the network. "It was fascinating because both guys were at the crossroads; both were coming off title fight losses to Ali," he said. "They were desperate, and they fought that way."

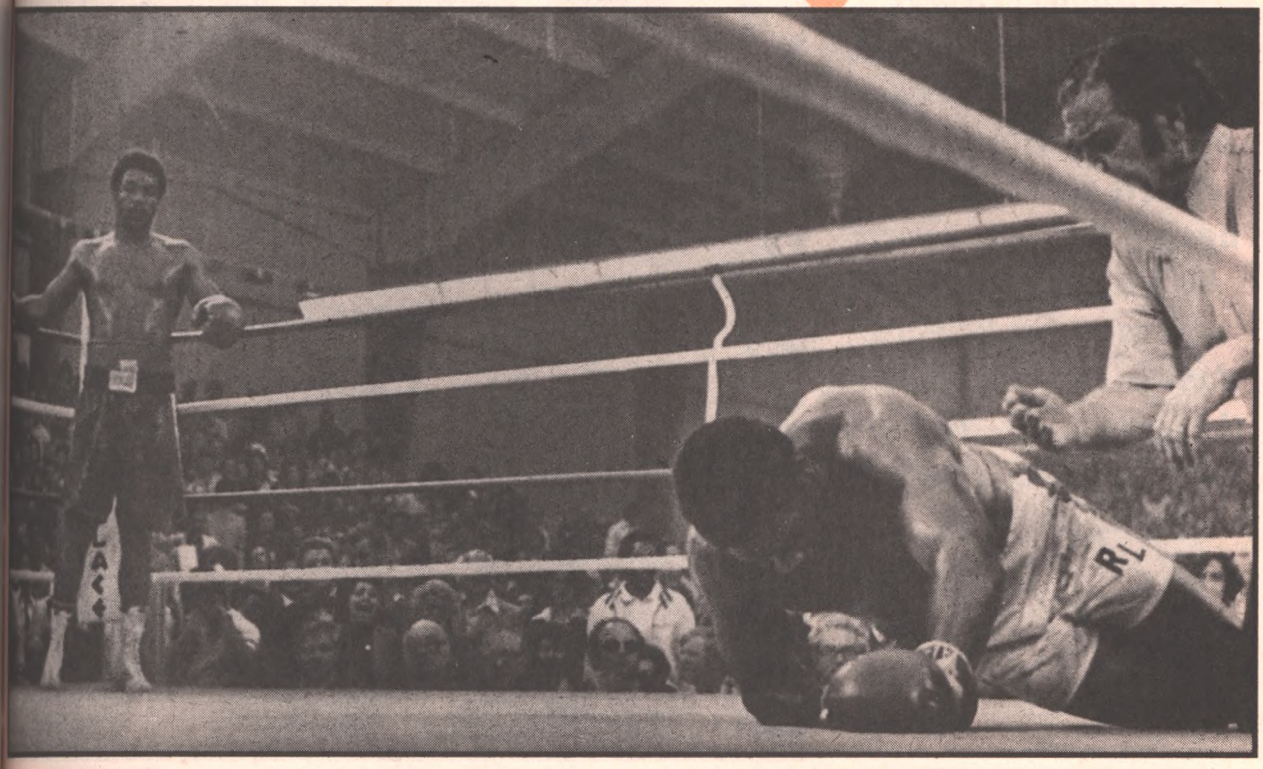
ABC has replayed the fight more than any other. It's certainly worth watching over and over.

The first round was quiet, eerily so for a matchup of brawlers. In the second, Foreman staggered Lyle, but the official timekeeper mistakenly rang the bell after only two minutes had elapsed. Lyle backed to the ropes in the third, and Foreman pounded away. Then came one of the wildest rounds in history. Lyle struck first in the fourth, dropping Foreman with an overhand right and a hook. Foreman lifted himself off the floor, then dropped Lyle with a home run right hand. Big George seemed ready to finish, but toward the end of the round, Lyle exploded once more, sending Foreman crashing with a right.

In the fifth, the fighters were utterly exhausted. Foreman's punches had broken Lyle's mouthpiece, and Lyle's blows had driven one of Foreman's teeth into his gums. After Foreman landed 17 deliberate and unanswered punches, Lyle pitched over face-first and was counted out at the 2:28 mark by referee Charlie Roth.

"It was a side of George we had never seen before," said Wallau. "George was a bully, and most bullies fold up when they get hit. There's no question the determination George showed to defeat Moorer was first seen in the fight with Lyle."

Alex Wallau (ABC boxing analyst): "It's probably the best heavyweight fight we've ever had on Wide World Of Sports. [Howard] Cosell would call one guy as being ready to go. Then that fighter would knock the other guy down, so he'd call the other guy as being ready to go, and that fighter would score a knockdown ... "



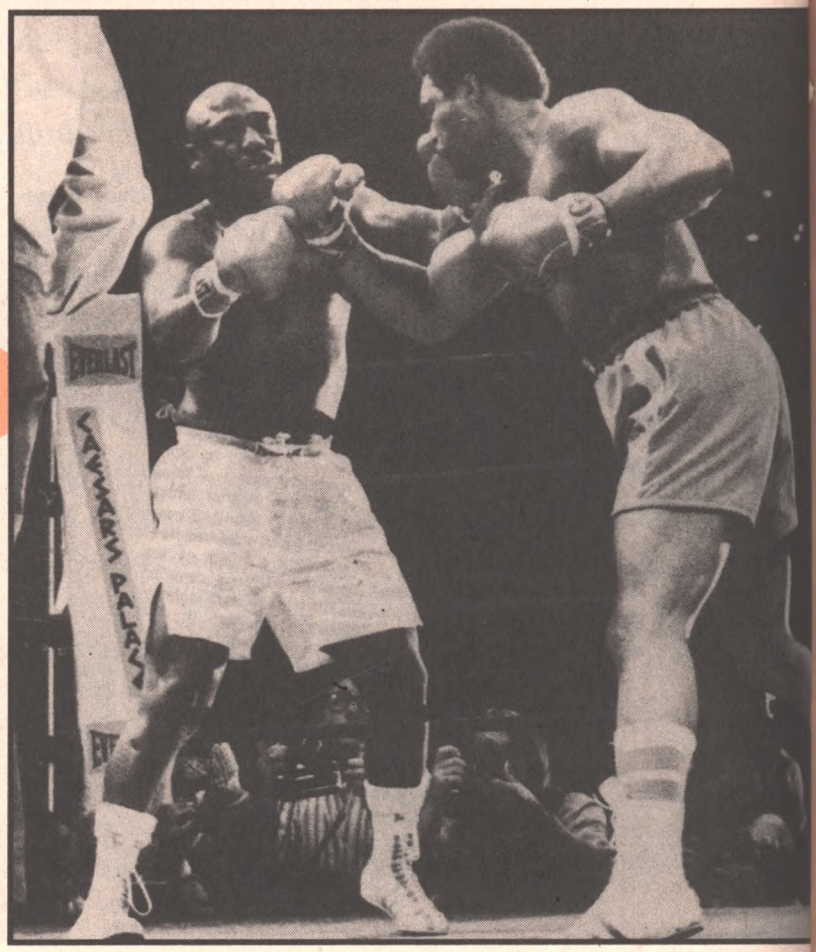
GEORGE FOREMAN KO 5 RON LYLE

January 24, 1976
Caesars Palace
Las Vegas, Nevada

GEORGE FOREMAN KO 5 JOE FRAZIER

June 15, 1976
Nassau Coliseum
Uniondale, New York

Eddie Futch (Frazier's trainer): "I called [assistant trainer] George Benton over and asked him what he always did as a boxer when he got old. He said he'd lean against the ropes to rest his legs. Then I asked him what Joe had just done in sparring. It was the same thing—and the one thing he couldn't do against Foreman."



It was nine months after "The Thrilla In Manila," and whatever fight the 33-year-old Frazier had left in him had been gloriously spent in the Philippines. Still, Frazier thought he could gain revenge for the embarrassing six-knockdown defeat he had suffered at the hands of Foreman in 1973. "Joe had confidence he could do the job," said Eddie Futch, his trainer. "He realized what a fiasco the first fight had been."

Perhaps to intimidate Foreman, Frazier entered the ring with a shaved head. Instead, his shining pate, coupled with his fleshy torso (he scaled a career-high 224½), made him look terribly old.

For four rounds, Frazier followed Futch's advice and boxed in ring-center. It might have seemed a drastic measure for a warrior who had come to be known as the quintessential bob-and-weave pressure fighter. In fact, it was a return to the style Frazier had used as an amateur and young pro. But his legs couldn't carry him for an entire fight. In the fifth, Foreman opened a cut over Frazier's right eye, then dropped him with a hook and overhand right. Frazier rose, only to be redeposited to the canvas by a hook. At [illegible] point, Futch, who had wanted "Smokin' Joe" retire after Manila, surrendered to referee Hu[illegible] Valan at the 2:26 mark.

"It's time to put the gloves on the wall, boogie, boogie, boogie," conceded Frazier.

As for Big George, he was almost disappointed in the result. "I was one step away from putting my foot on the man's chest," he told Sports *Illustrated* years later. "I thought if I killed him it would only make me more vicious. After I lost to Ali, I'd decided I needed more hate."

Maybe Foreman figured if he beat up all the fighters Ali had defended against, he'd secure a long-awaited rematch with the champion. First Ron Lyle had gone down, then Joe Frazier. Now it would be Young, the defensive specialist who had lost a close decision to Ali in April 1976.

For six rounds, Foreman pursued Jimmy Young, who was slick and smart enough to minimize the exchanges. In the seventh, Big George finally connected with a hook that drove Young across the ring and into the ropes. "He really hurt me," said Young. "To tell you the truth, I didn't think I would make it."

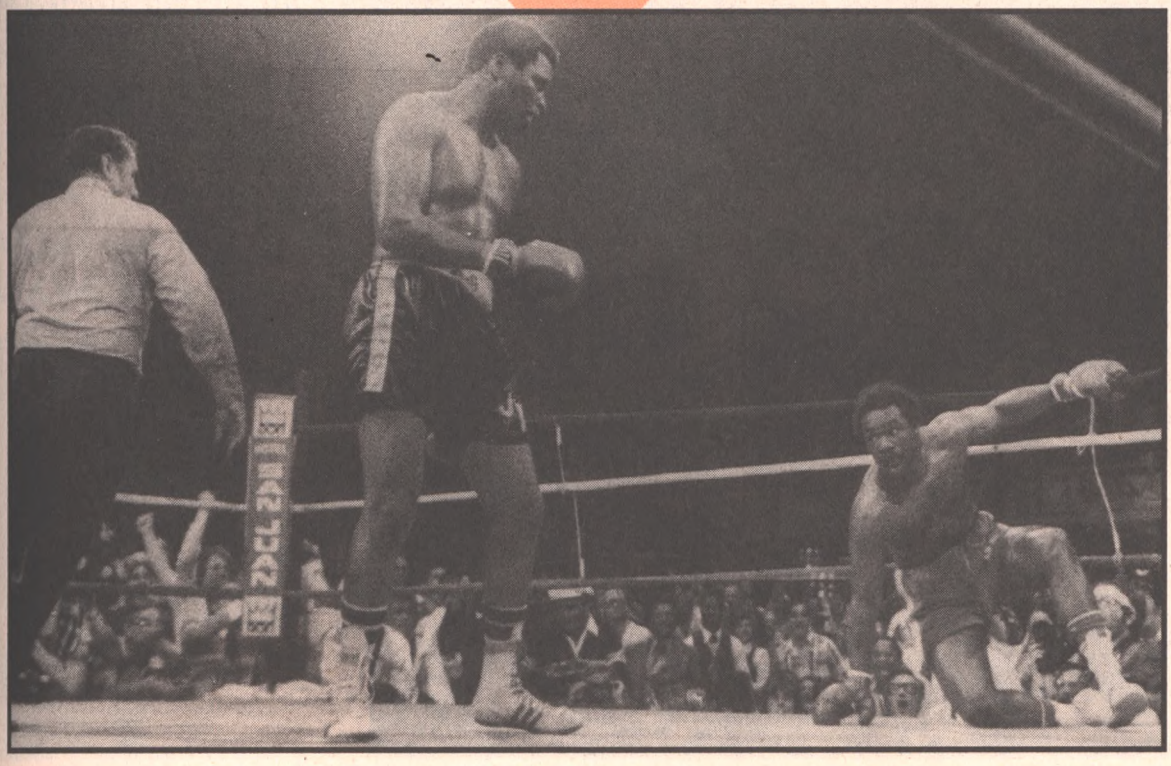
By the round's end, Foreman was punched out. He continued to decelerate at an alarming rate, and in the 12th and final round, Young downed him with a right. The knockdown punctuated the Philadelphian's upset victory; the judges scored unanimously (totals of 118-111, 116-112, and 115-114).

In his dressing room after the fight, Foreman, suffering from severe heat exhaustion, had what he believed to be a religious experience. "I saw myself dying," he said, "and it was like I was trying to make a deal with God."

"Only twice in my career did I ever see anything like that," said Gil Clancy, Foreman's trainer, "and the other time had come only two weeks before, in New York with a fighter named Ronnie Gibbons. It was exactly the same thing: He turned white as a ghost and they thought he was gonna die. His vomit was even the same color as George's."

Foreman saw it a bit differently. "God did not choose me," he said. "What God did was give me a choice." And Big George was about to choose religion over boxing.

Gil Clancy (then Foreman's trainer): "You couldn't talk to George. We had to restrain him; he wanted to run back out to the audience and start screaming about Jesus. In my mind, it was total dehydration and hallucination. But not in his mind."

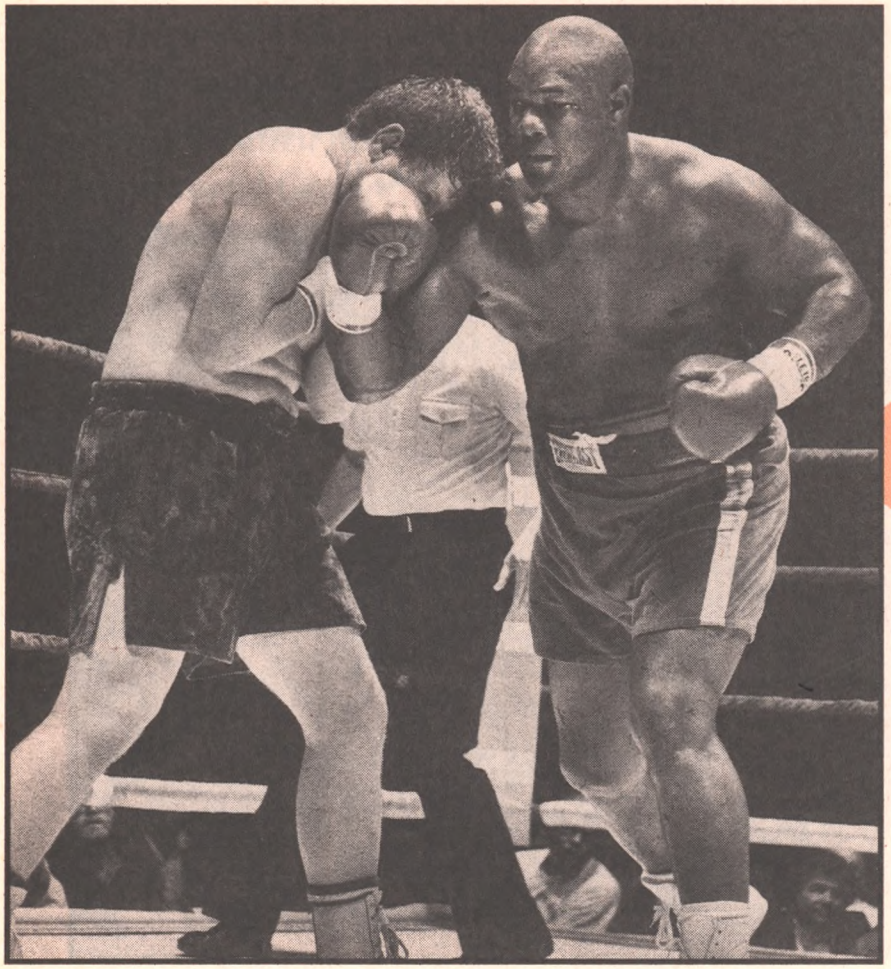


JIMMY YOUNG W 12
GEORGE FOREMAN

March 17, 1977
Roberto Clemente Coliseum
San Juan, Puerto Rico

GEORGE FOREMAN KO 4 STEVE ZOUSKI

(First comeback fight)
March 9, 1987
Arco Arena, Sacramento, California



Phil Berger (then a boxing writer for The New York Times): "People were very interested in Foreman's comeback. The reaction was, 'It's good to have you back.' But nobody was taking it seriously because he looked ready for a Maidenform ad."

There had been successful comebacks before. Muhammad Ali missed 3½ years of his prime, then regained the heavyweight title four years after his return. Eder Jofre retired for three years, then won the featherweight title almost four years after the start of his comeback. But *10* years? What fighter would have a chance at financial and artistic success after a decade on the sidelines? Foreman, 38, and 12½ years removed from the heavyweight title, decided to again lace up his gloves for two reasons. Firstly, as a public figure, he could more effectively spread the word of the good book. Secondly, there wasn't an active heavyweight he didn't think he could lick.

After privately working out for months and dropping about 70 pounds, Big George went public by taking on 32-year-old trialhorse Steve Zouski before 5,307 curious fans. No one expected much of a fight, and Foreman dominated with jabs and bodyshots.

"I wanted a quick knockout," Foreman said, "but I needed some rounds, too."

After Zouski sponged several powerpunch in the fourth, referee Hank Elespuru called a h at the 2:47 mark. "Seven straight punches wi out a reply," he said. "Enough was enough."

The victory aside, was this indeed the re George Foreman?

"I stopped hitting him a few times to gi him a break," he said. "I mean, I hit him with left hook and I let him recover. Can you imagi me doing that 10 years ago?"

Dwight Muhammad Qawi: "I took the fight on 2½ weeks notice. I was training for a fight with Bert Cooper. Then [matchmaker] Teddy Brenner said, 'We got something else: George Foreman.' I said, 'Is he still fighting?' But it was twice as much money, so I went for it."

From the start of his comeback, Foreman made it clear he was going to do things his way. When insiders complained about the quality of his opposition, he responded by smiling wide and delivering a self-deprecating one-liner. Dwight Muhammad Qawi, who was opponent number eight, was Big George's first name foe. But scaling a bloated 222 pounds, the 35-year-old former light heavyweight and cruiserweight king had as much a chance of winning as playing Hamlet on Broadway.

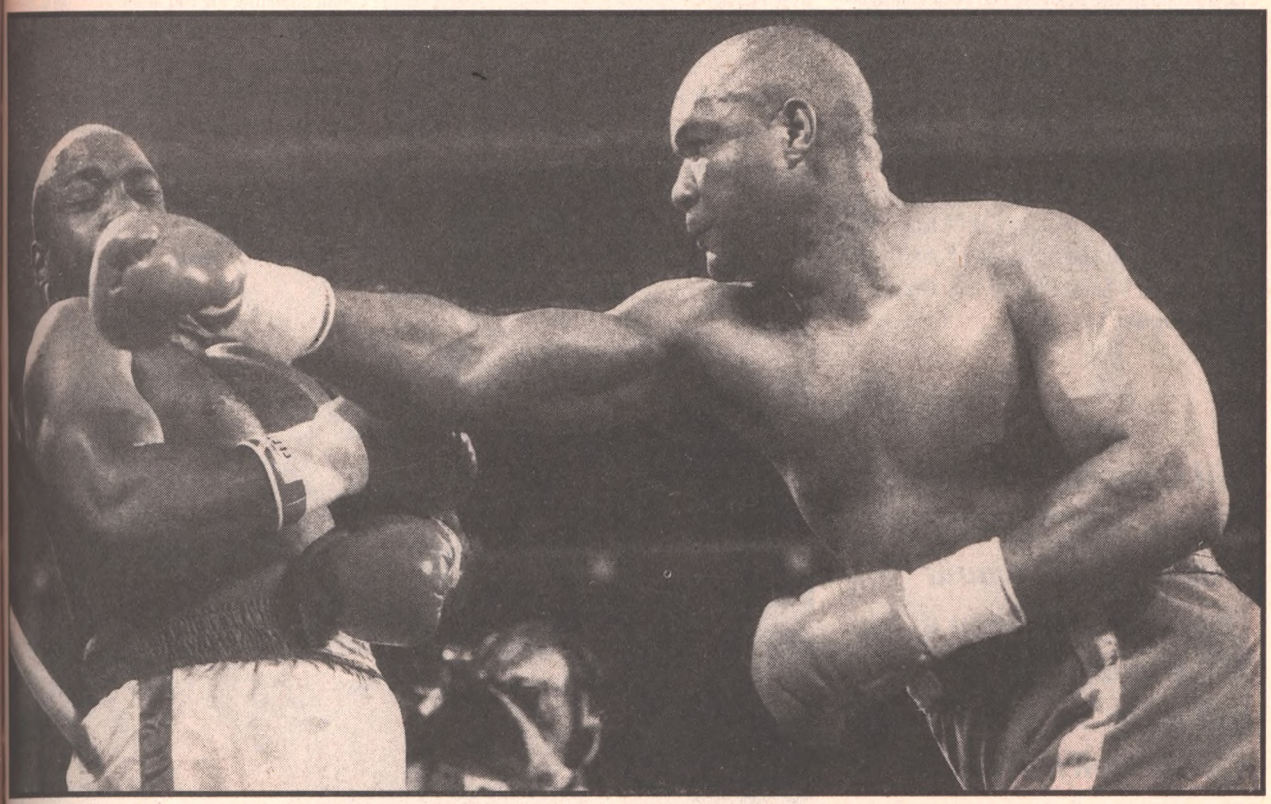
"At the weigh-in," said the 5'7" Qawi, "I saw that his arms were as big as my legs."

The Associated Press described the fight as "almost comical at times between two aging and plodding fighters." Qawi banged away at the start and used his considerable defensive skills to win a couple of rounds. But Foreman broke through in the sixth, driving Qawi backward with a left uppercut. In the seventh, Qawi turned his back after getting hit, prompting referee Carlos Padilla to intervene at the 1:51 mark.

"I felt his pressure more than his strength," said Qawi. "If I had been in better shape, I would've gone the distance. It's the only fight I ever quit. It's true that fatigue makes cowards of us all."

Afterward, Bob Arum, who had promoted the bout, said he would disassociate himself from Foreman until the 39-year-old heavyweight agreed to upgrade his competition. According to Arum, Foreman had turned down fights with Jesse Ferguson, Orlin Norris, James Pritchard, and Renaldo Snipes.

Guess what: Foreman's next eight fights would come against tomato cans and lettuce-heads. If the public didn't care, Foreman reasoned, why should Arum?



GEORGE FOREMAN KO 7 DWIGHT MUHAMMAD QAWI

March 19, 1988
Caesars Palace
Las Vegas, Nevada

GEORGE FOREMAN KO 2 GERRY COONEY

January 15, 1990
Convention Center, Atlantic City, New Jersey

Until the night of January 15, the return of Foreman had been bizarre. Now it was macabre, too. In his previous 19 comeback fights, it had been easy to define Big George's opposition. Steve Zouski and Bobby Crabtree and Rocky Sekorski had been clubfighters. Dwight Qawi and J.B. Williamson had been bloated cruiserweights. Bert Cooper had been a poorly conditioned and uninterested paycheck fighter. But what was Gerry Cooney, the one-time top-rated contender who hadn't fought in 31 months? A huge and powerful heavyweight who, under the guidance of trainer Gil Clancy, had been rejuvenated? Or an awkward and fragile underachiever who had turned into everyone's favorite punchline?

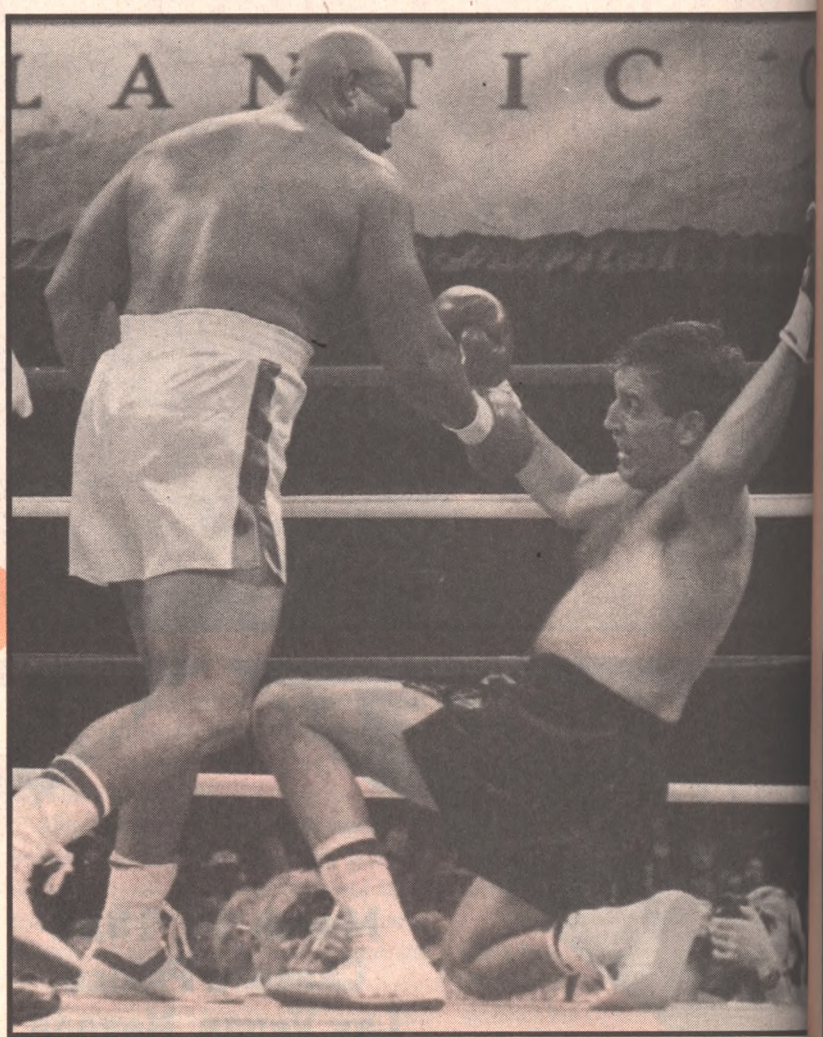
Whether a curiosity or a legitimate showdown, Foreman-Cooney drew a sellout crowd of 12,581, with each and every spectator expecting a violent ending. Cooney won the first round, landing a handful of jabs and shaking Foreman with a hook.

"Cooney hit harder than any guy I got in the ring with," Foreman said.

Sensing danger, Foreman pressed forward in the second. He stunned his opponent with a left uppercut, then added an overhand right and left-right. *Boom!* Cooney picked himself up, only to walk into a brutal left uppercut and overhand right. He collapsed and remained motionless for 30 seconds. Referee Joe Cortez didn't bother to count, signaling the end at the 1:57 mark.

"Cooney wobbled him in the first, and in the second, George didn't miss a punch," said Clancy. "What the fight told me about him was that he was very, very determined in his comeback."

Gil Clancy (Cooney's trainer): "I didn't think Gerry would have any problem at all. But as soon as the bell rang, he tightened up mentally. Then, at the start of the second round, I turned to [cornerman] George Munch and said, 'What the hell is Gerry doing?' He was having an anxiety attack."



For America's Fighter, would getting there be enough? Or would the 42-year-old Foreman overcome the final—and highest—hurdle and complete his unlikely comeback by regaining the heavyweight title? The whole world, and not just boxing fans, wanted to know the answers.

In the biggest fight in Atlantic City boxing history, many insiders predicted Foreman, faced with his first world-class opponent since Jimmy Young in 1977, would fail miserably. Though unable to shake the shadow of Mike Tyson, Evander Holyfield was unbeaten and battle-tested. Foreman's only chance would be to overwhelm the champion. But only if Father Time didn't overwhelm Big George first.

From the start, the fight was crisp and alive. Foreman staged his first rally in round two, bringing the fans to their feet by raining punches on Holyfield, who, compared to the massive hulk in front of him, looked like a middleweight. Scoring in combination and moving just enough to force Foreman to continually reset, Holyfield took most of the early rounds. In the sensational seventh, Foreman banged away, only to have Holyfield rally back.

"You hurt him, and when you get ready to finish him, he almost finishes you," lamented the challenger.

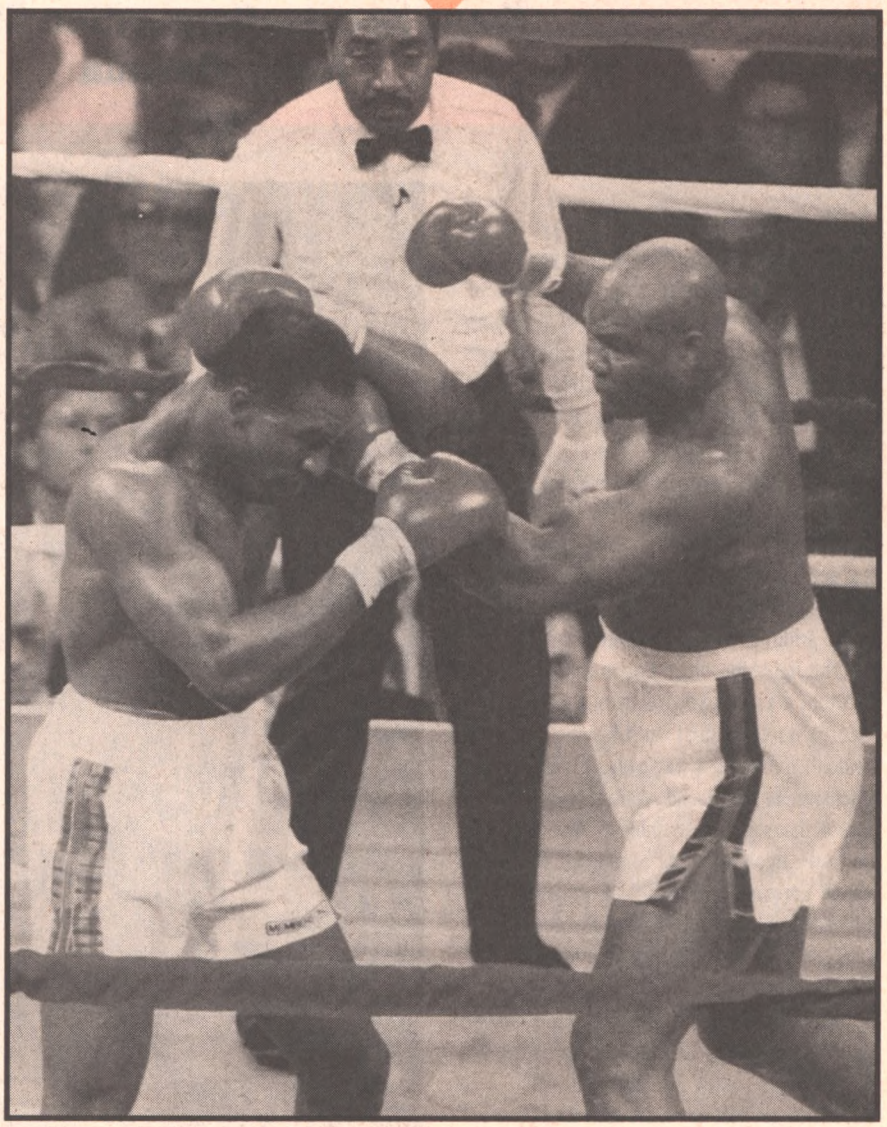
Holyfield pulled away in the late rounds, though Foreman punched until the final bell. The judges refused to surrender to sentimentality, unanimously scoring for the champion by 117-110, 116-111, and 115-112.

"Who would think George could go 12 rounds with me at a furious pace?" said Holyfield.

And who would think Foreman might actually continue his quest?

"If you can live, you can dream," he said. "I'm not through dreaming yet."

Evander Holyfield: "I hit George with all I had. For five years I hit guys with all I had and they went out. George didn't. He proved to me he's not old."



EVANDER HOLYFIELD W 12 GEORGE FOREMAN

(Retains World Heavyweight Title)
April 19, 1991
Convention Center, Atlantic City, New Jersey

GEORGE FOREMAN KO 3 JIMMY ELLIS

December 7, 1991
Reno-Sparks Convention Center
Reno, Nevada

Those who figured Foreman's gallant loss to heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield would end Big George's comeback were making the mistake of applying logic. If logic had anything to do with it, Foreman wouldn't have returned in the first place.

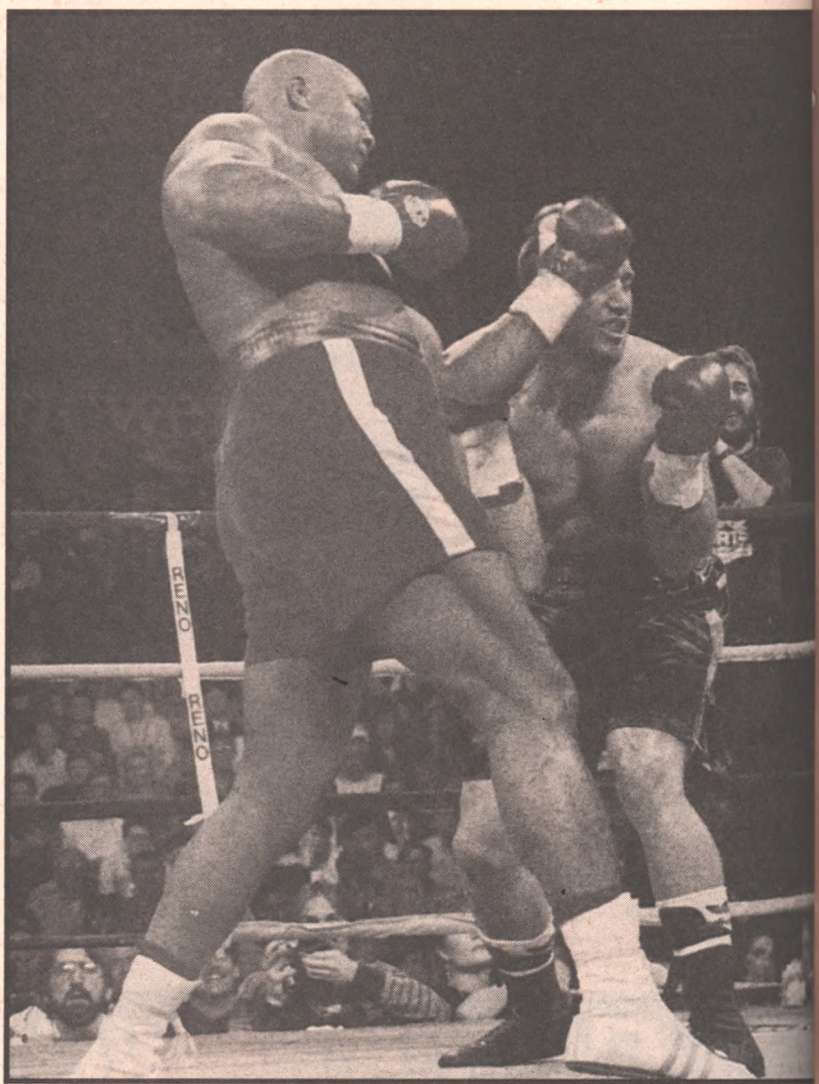
Jimmy Ellis was a good story, an unbeaten (16-0) white heavyweight who in 1988 had been drafted as a linebacker by the Los Angeles Raiders. But he belonged in the ring with Foreman about as much as Big George belonged on the gridiron with Joe Montana.

The fight, for which Foreman was paid $5-million, was an eyesore from the start. Big George couldn't miss with his jab, and Ellis couldn't figure out a way to launch even a mild offensive. In the second round, Foreman landed a hook that sent Ellis stumbling. From that point on, only two questions remained: How hard would Foreman hit Ellis? And how much punishment would referee Richard Steele allow the linebacker to absorb before issuing him a helmet?

In round three, Foreman began to pull his punches, especially his right hands. "Boxing is an honorable sport," he said. "You don't want anyone to get hurt any more than they have to." Still, Steele chose not to intervene. Finally, at the 1:36 mark, with an almost apologetic Foreman mercifully refraining from loading up, Steele called a halt.

"I don't think HBO walked away from that promotion waving a banner that read, 'Number One Boxing Network,'" said HBO's Ross Greenburg.

Foreman was again a winning heavyweight. But he was sure of one thing: For as long as Evander Holyfield wore the crown, he'd never get a second chance at regaining the title.



Ross Greenburg (HBO senior vice president & executive producer): "The Ellis fight showed what kind of manager Foreman had become. He got HBO to accept an opponent we shouldn't have accepted. The fight didn't enhance George's career. It was a nice, convincing win over an amateur opponent."

It was like watching your uncle get mugged. Only seconds after the sound of the final bell, Foreman, 43 and having seemingly reached the end of his improbable comeback, slid his swollen head into a pair of black sunglasses. He had outlasted Alex Stewart by majority decision (94-94 and two scores of 94-93), but the victory came at a great cost. Having been extended the distance for only the third time since his return, Big George was a grotesque, almost unrecognizable sight. His jaw was puffy; both his eyes were swollen shut; his nose was bleeding and broken; and his lips were shredded.

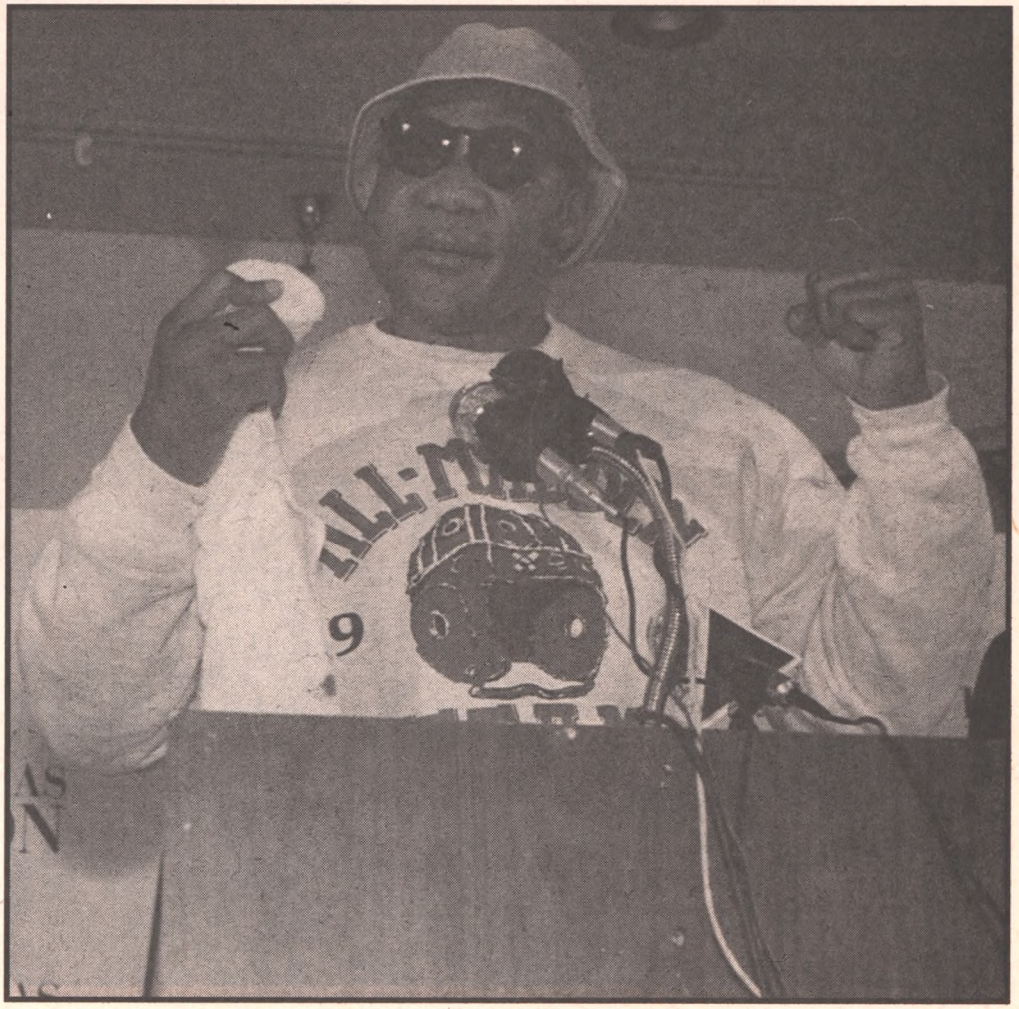
"I thought I had him in the third round; I didn't want to hurt the kid," he said. Talk about misplaced mercy!

Having been stopped by Evander Holyfield, Michael Moorer, and Mike Tyson, Stewart didn't figure to pose too many problems. A quick stoppage seemed imminent in round two, when Foreman twice dropped his foe. The three-knockdown rule was in effect, but a desperate Stewart survived until the bell.

By the third, Foreman was huffing and puffing and no longer able to blow his opponent down, and Stewart began landing the jabs and rights that would rearrange Big George's features. As it turned out, only a big eighth round saved Foreman from the ignominy of a draw, if not a loss.

"Early on, he was strong as a bull," said Stewart. "But as the fight went on, he got weaker and weaker. And power was always the one thing that separated him from the others."

Alex Stewart: "I felt he was an old man who didn't have it. He lulled me to sleep with his friendly personality. It wasn't until after he dropped me for the first or second time that I said, 'This isn't such a friendly guy.'"

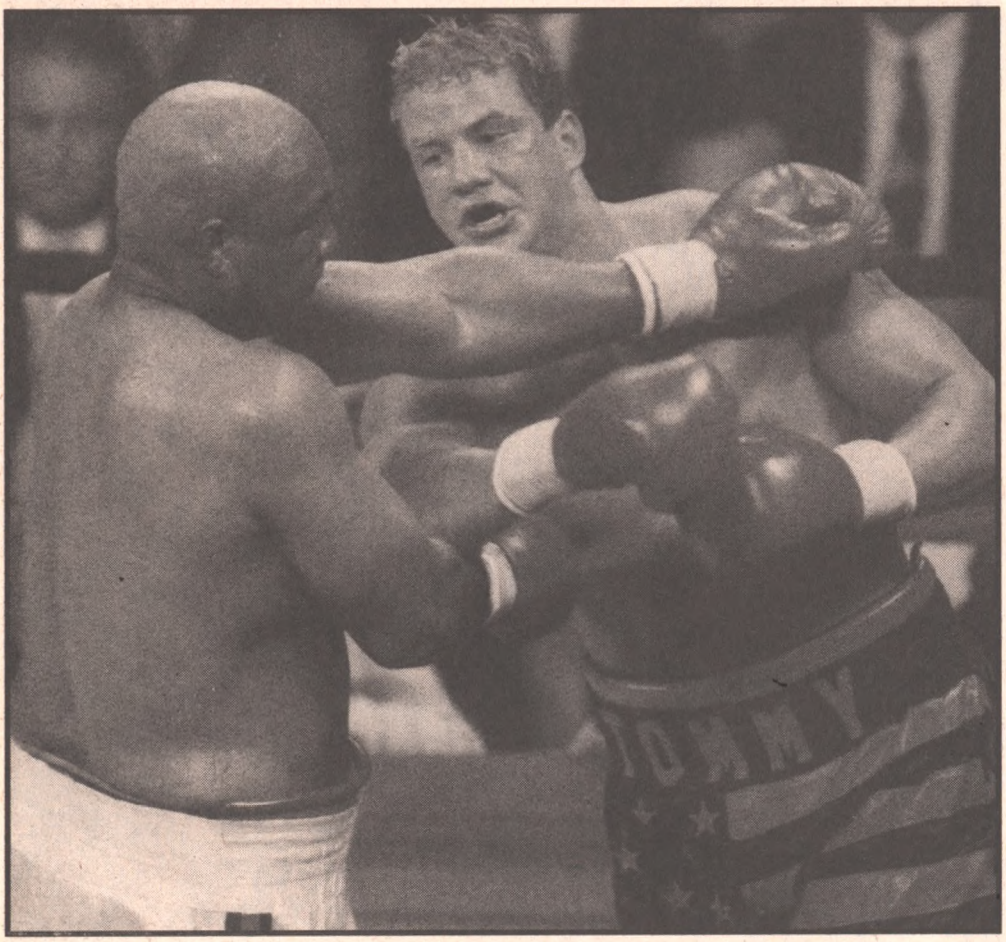


GEORGE FOREMAN W 10 ALEX STEWART

April 11, 1992
Thomas & Mack Center
Las Vegas, Nevada

TOMMY MORRISON W 12 GEORGE FOREMAN

June 17, 1993
Thomas & Mack Center
Las Vegas, Nevada



George Foreman: "I never said I was going to retire. I said this will probably be the last time I get into the ring, and it probably will be."

In hindsight, the fact that flatfooted, face-first Tommy Morrison dipped and dodged his way to outboxing Foreman is remarkable. But the fact that the fragile Morrison took Foreman's biggest punches without breaking into tiny pieces is nothing short of a modern-day miracle.

Foreman, 44, didn't scare the once-beaten Morrison, 24, until the last round, when a hook shook "The Duke" to his Oklahoma roots. Otherwise, Morrison confused the former champion with movement and took advantage of Foreman's inability to pull the trigger.

"The plan," said Morrison, "was not to let George get set."

"If I ever would have run and turned my back, they would have told me never to have been a boxer in the first place," Foreman said of his opponent's negative tactics.

Morrison tired in the middle rounds, then capitalized on his second wind and captured a unanimous decision by scores of 117-110 (twice) and 118-109. Almost everyone at ringside believed it to be a much closer fight, and several observers thought Foreman deserved the verdict.

Almost no one, however, thought Foreman would ever box again.

"I fought for the title twice," he said. Morrison fight had been contested for the ous WBO title.) "That was my goal. Now time to raise my herd of children."

But Foreman wasn't destined to fade a After Michael Moorer dethroned WBA champion Evander Holyfield in April 1994 George got an idea. He shared it with Seth Abraham, who passed it along to Moo manager, John Davimos. Whether America it or not, Foreman was still daring to dream impossible dream.

On paper, Foreman-Michael Moorer was a ridiculous match-up, a 45-year-old challenger who hadn't fought in 17 months against a 26-year-old southpaw whose confidence had been buoyed by his title-winning effort against Evander Holyfield. However, Foreman's dreams aren't scribbled on paper. Though he was a 3-1 underdog, the fight was going to take place three days before the elections, and the polls suggested incumbents were more susceptible than ever.

"I'm picking George," said trainer Eddie Futch. "I think he'll stop him. Even though he doesn't have much speed, he could always cut off the ring."

For nine rounds, Moorer exposed Foreman as painfully slow and plodding. But that didn't make Big George any less dangerous. He ate jab after jab—and lost round after round—without getting discouraged.

After the ninth, Moorer led by scores of 88-83 (twice) and 86-85. But Foreman was winning the chess game; Moorer was stepping to his left—and into the range of Foreman's only big weapon. "I knew if I could hit him with a right hand and get a little body English in it," he said, "he would not get up."

Almost two minutes into the 10th, Foreman landed a left-right. Seconds later, he repeated the combination, catching Moorer with a cross to the point of the jaw. The champion crashed, lifted his head for a split second, and rolled over, but didn't come close to beating the count of referee Joe Cortez. Time of the miracle: 2:03 of the 10th round.

Just like that, Big George had realized the impossible dream.

Said the new/old heavyweight champion of the world, "I'll be 46 in January, but I've got a future in front of me."

And then he smiled.

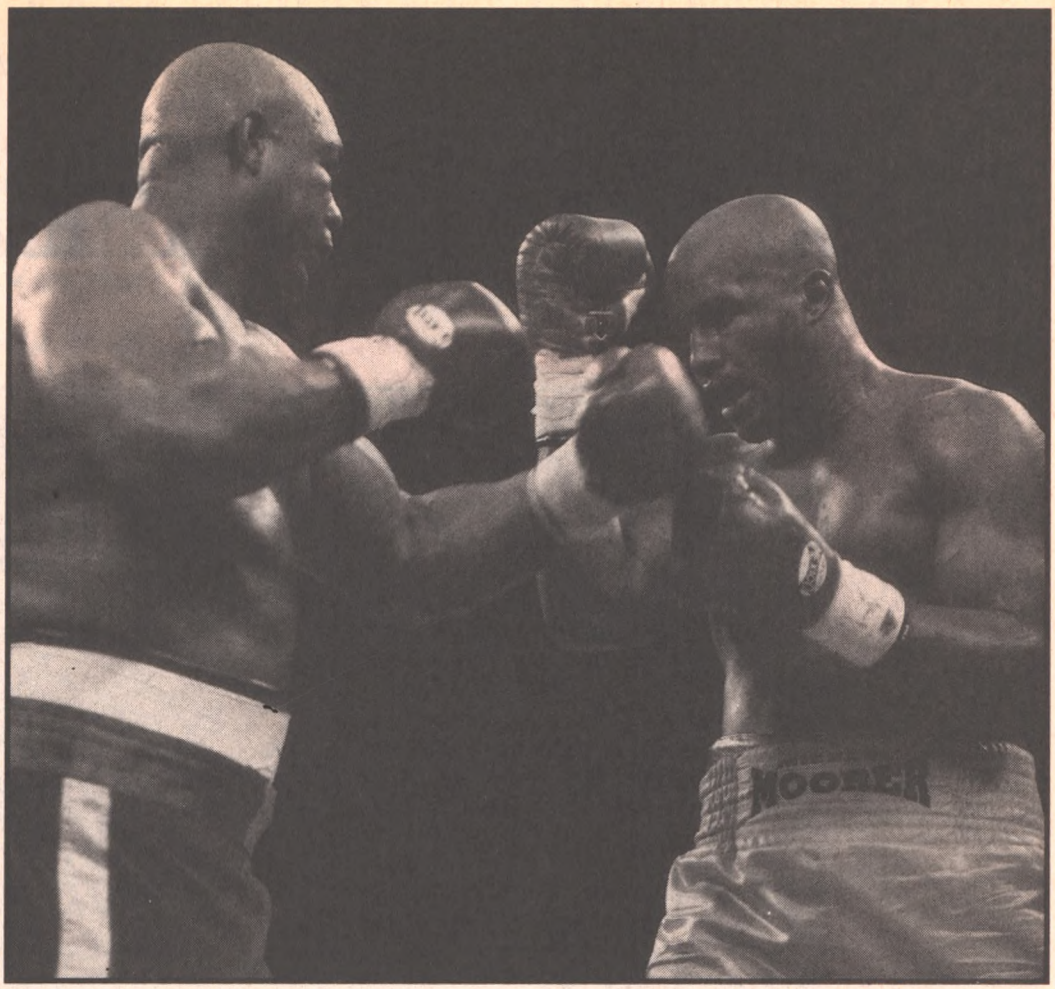


Photo by Tom Casino

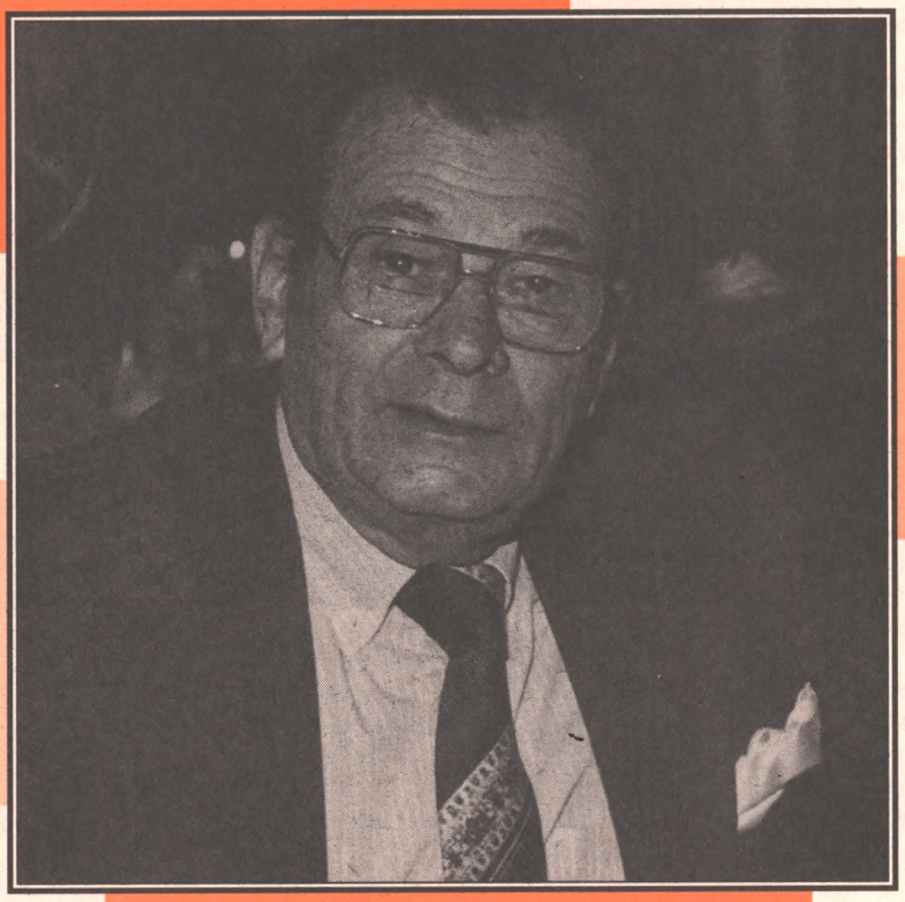
George Foreman: "Muhammad Ali sent me a big printout saying, 'Congratulations. You had the courage and guts to do it.' That's gonna go high up on my wall. When Ali says you got guts, that's something special."

GEORGE FOREMAN KO 10 MICHAEL MOORER

(Wins WBA & IBF Heavyweight Titles)
November 5, 1994
MGM Grand Garden, Las Vegas, Nevada

BOXING HISTORIAN

HANK KAPLAN



If He Doesn't Know About It, It Didn't Happe

By Mark Jacobs

For a true devotee of boxing, entering Hank Kaplan's Florida home falls somewhere between a journey to Mecca and a free trip to Disney World.

Watch your step, there's a box of original posters from all of Muhammad Ali's big fights blocking the doorway. (Kaplan hasn't had time to uncrate it.) Don't trip over those videotapes featuring turn-of-the-century boxers. Had to leave them in the den, nowhere else available at the moment. Have a seat on the living room sofa. You'll just have to move that pile of 30-year-old RING magazines.

Kaplan, the world's leading boxing historian and a frequent contributor to THE RING, has amassed one of the most massive treasure-troves of boxing artifacts, memorabilia, and gen bric-a-brac on earth. How huge? A coup years back he had to buy a new house. Hi one was no longer large enough to co Kaplan, his wife Sylvia, and the boxing co tion.

But memorabilia is just the window-dres Indeed, Kaplan bridles at the mention o word.

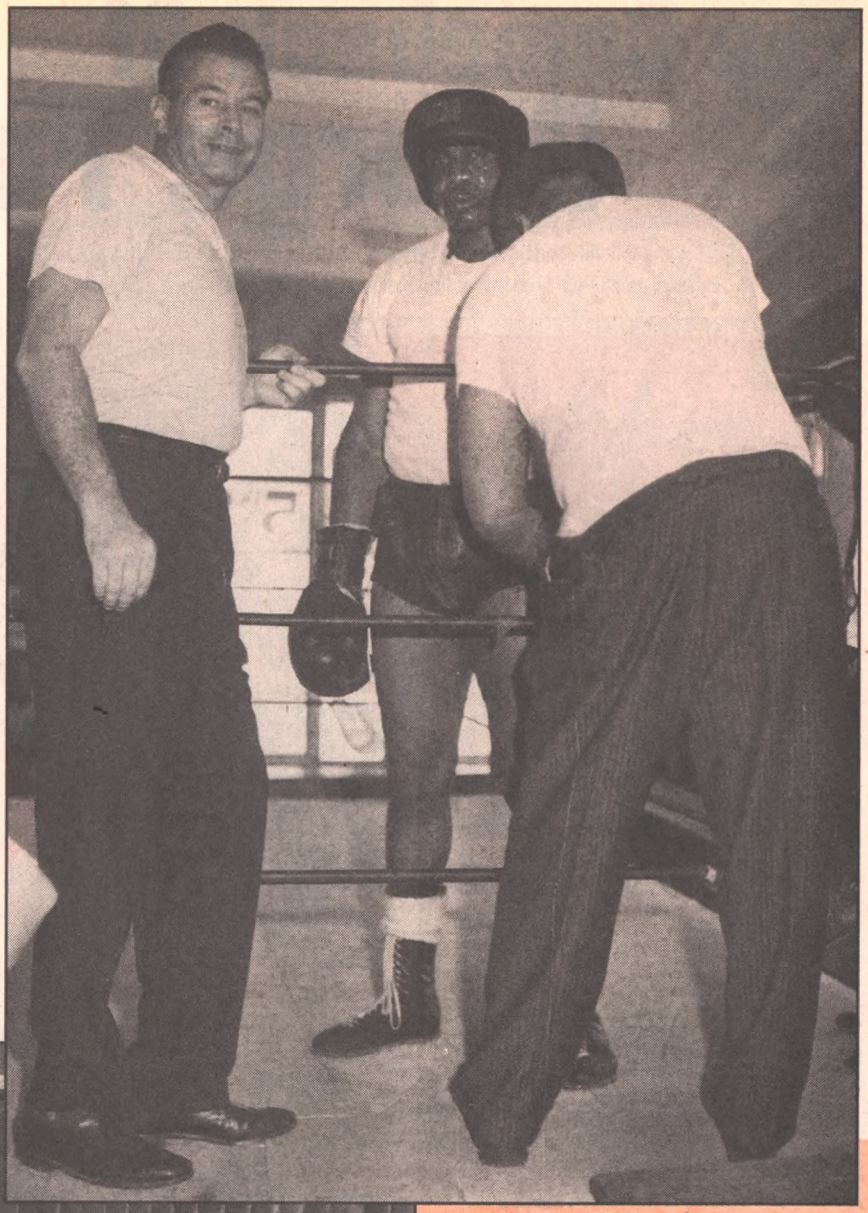
"I'm not a collector, I'm a historian," he says. "I never considered these things memorabilia. I saw them as pieces of history I didn't want to be destroyed."

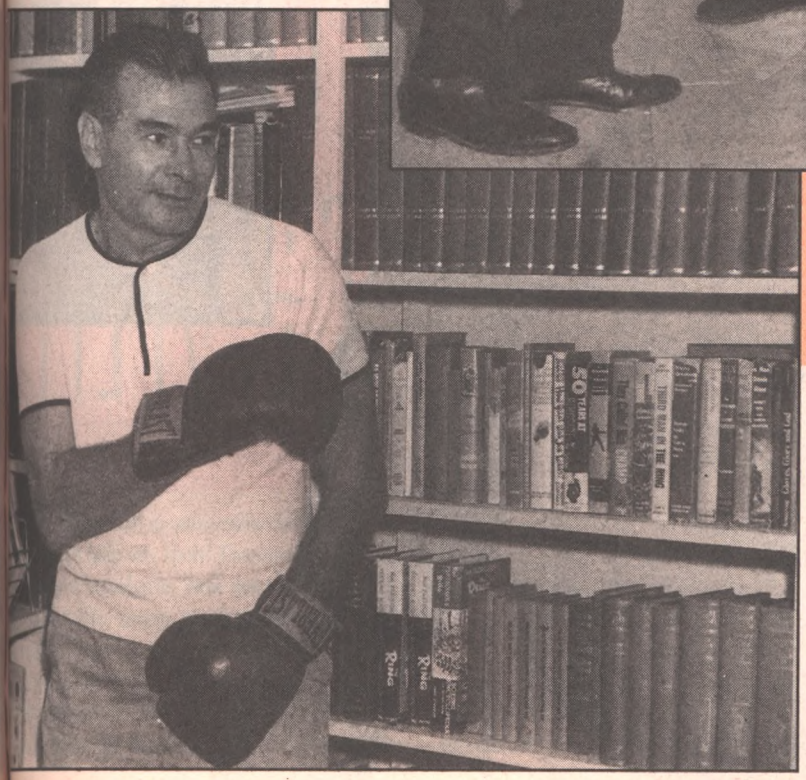
Kaplan developed his all-encompassing passion for boxing as a youngster on New York's Lower East Side. He began boxing in the orphanage where he was raised during the 1930s, but soon developed an interest for the sport that carried beyond the ring.

"I was fascinated by the lives of great fighters like Corbett and Sullivan, and how boxing got started in the old days," he says.

The earliest memorabilia, *uh,* pieces of history in his collection go back to the days when top fighters like Pete Scalzo and Steve Belloise would drop in on Kaplan and the other young boxers with autographed photos. Kaplan says he treasures those early collectibles because he actually met the boxers behind them. But to this day he has no feeling for these items as anything other than a significant document of the past.

Though he continued boxing recreationally for nearly 20 years, starting boxing clubs everywhere he traveled as a young man, Kaplan became even more involved with the sport when he settled in Miami. He established a close friendship with the Dundee brothers and worked for many years as their publicist. During this time he became an astute observer of many of the world's great fighters, watching them work out at Chris Dundee's famed Fifth Street Gym. Kaplan





In 1959, Kaplan helped future heavyweight champion Sonny Liston prepare for his bout with Cleveland Williams (above). The Miami-based Kaplan, who has unlimited resources (left), is regarded as perhaps the foremost boxing historian in the United States, and maybe the world.

was there the first time a young Cassius Clay came in to train.

"He had the habit of dropping his hands, so most of the ringsiders thought he had no defense and would get knocked out," he recalls. "But they didn't understand holding your hands high is just one form of defense. Ali had this great ability to move and slip punches instead of blocking them." Ever a sharp observer of the sport's minutiae, Kaplan saw something the others didn't. To this day, Angelo Dundee will often call him for a

(Continued on page 73)

The Comeback Of George Foreman

Photo by Holly Stein/Allsport

HOW I HELPED CREATE A MONSTER

y Randy Gordon, Chairman
ew York State Athletic Commission

Editor's Note: Randy Gordon, a former editor-in-chief of THE RING, *s served as chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission since 6. In light of George Foreman's improbable comeback and coronation, asked Gordon to share his thoughts on the Seniors Tour. Before a reman, an Alexis Arguello, or a Billy Costello can make a comeback, he to be licensed. That's where Gordon, and the rest of the state commis-ners become part of the story. Their decisions don't always come easy.*

George Foreman is once again heavyweight champion of the world. Heaven help this sport! Foreman's return in 1987 triggered a landslide of comebacks. Now that he's become the oldest fighter ever to win a world title, forget the landslide. It's going to be more like an avalanche.

I cringe every time a way-past-his-prime boxer walks into my New York City office and asks for a license to resume his boxing career. ("If George Foreman can do it, so can I ... ") You see, this commissioner, who is opposed to comebacks, had a lot to do with Foreman launching his comeback.

It was nearly 10 years ago, and seemingly 10 *light* years ago, that I, in my former life as a sportscaster, headed to Houston for a boxing show. My sidekick that night was Big George. And I do mean *Big*. That night, Foreman admitted to weighing more than 300 pounds. My guesstimate was somewhere between 320 and 335. In the hours before the doors to the ballroom of the Hyatt Regency swung open, Foreman and I discussed old times and old friends. Mostly, he talked about his life since 1977, when Jimmy Young had outpointed him in San Juan. Following that fight, Foreman hung up his gloves and picked up a Bible. He was now the Rev. George Foreman.

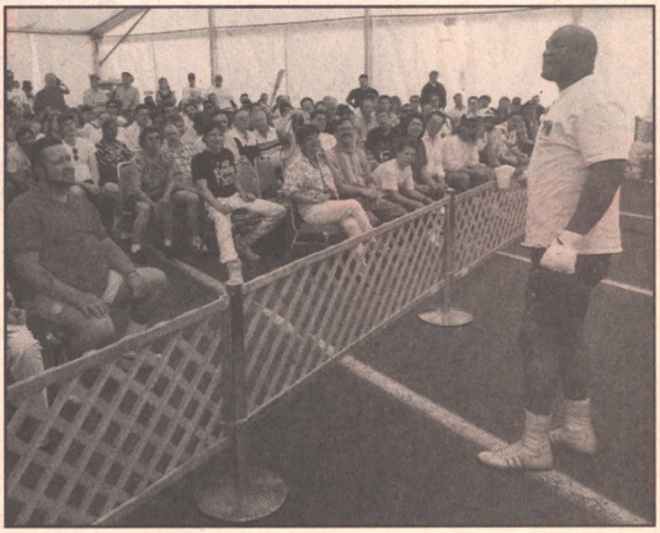
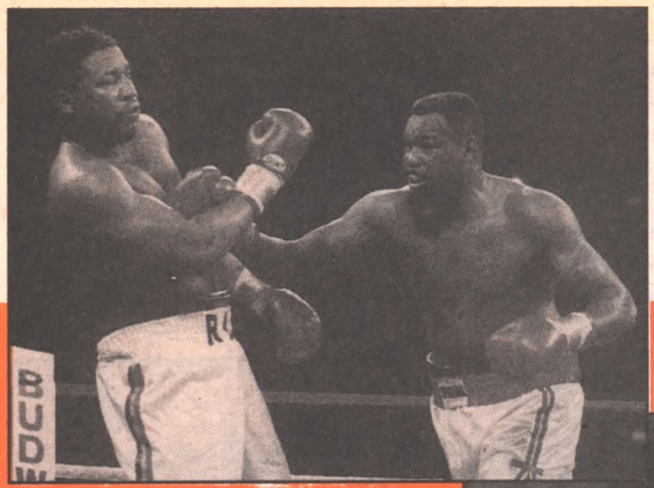


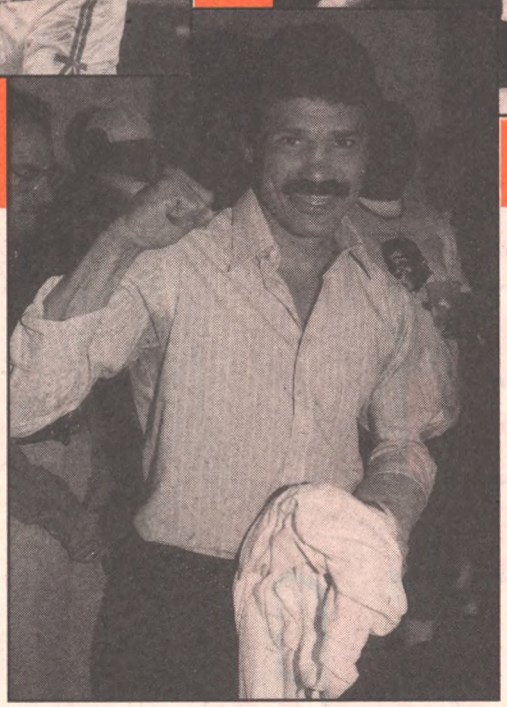
Photo by Marc Morrison

Instead of telling his fans that life begins at 40, maybe Foreman should be discouraging older fighters from returning to the ring.

The promoters of the fight had called Foreman and asked him to work as a color analyst at ringside. Remember, he had been away from boxing since 1977. There was no reason to think he'd accept the offer. I was pleasantly surprised when he said yes.

During a televised undercard bout between mediocre heavyweights Wesley Smith and Ed Hatrick, both of whom weighed more than 230 pounds, I playfully teased the Rev. Foreman.





The Ponce DeLeon wannabes (left to right): Larry Holmes failed to act his age in defeating Ray Mercer; Alexis Arguello recently won his first comeback fight; and Billy Costello was reasonably impressive in stopping Bobby Elkins.

Photo by Jay Lash

"I wish all our viewers could look into George Foreman's eyes and see the way he is studying these two heavyweights," I said. "George, I'll bet you could beat either one of them right now."

"Oh, no, Randy, I don't think so," said a shy, almost apologetic Foreman. "These men are professionals. Even though it might look easy, believe me, it's not. I wouldn't want to climb in the ring with either of them."

I refused to back off. During the course of the bout, I continued to prod and push Foreman back into the ring, at least verbally.

I said, "There is a sparkle in George Foreman's eyes, ladies and gentlemen. As I sit here, I see in George Foreman a man who has just regained the desire to return to the ring."

Although he continued to boyishly deny a desire to again lace on the gloves, the look on his face told another story.

At the end of the evening, Foreman and I spoke for about 15 minutes before bidding each other good night. I told him I really believed he should launch a comeback and left him with the thought that as a reverend, what bigger pulpit could he hope for than to address a worldwide congregation as heavyweight champion of the world. He thought about it for a moment, then smiled. As he departed, he asked me for my home phone number.

The show was on a Sunday. On Monday night, my phone rang. It was Big George.

"Randy," he began, "today I went down to the local Army base and climbed in the ring with the base champion. We went three rounds and I thought I looked pretty good. I was most surprised that my jab was still there. I don't think I've lost anything on it. I was dead-tired after three rounds, but hey, I haven't been near a ring or a gym for three years."

"So, what now?"

"I'm gonna tell you something, and I hope you can keep it a secret. I *am* going to come back. I've thought about some of the things you've said. This really is a chance for me to do some real good. There's the George Foreman Youth Center down here I'd like to build up, as well as other charitable organizations. The heavyweight championship of the world is indeed a big pulpit to preach from. I am going to come back, but I've got to lose a lot of weight first. I'm not going to announce anything until I get into fighting shape. Watching those two heavyweights last night really did it for me. Any thoughts I had of coming back bec very real last night, and totally real wh climbed into the ring today."

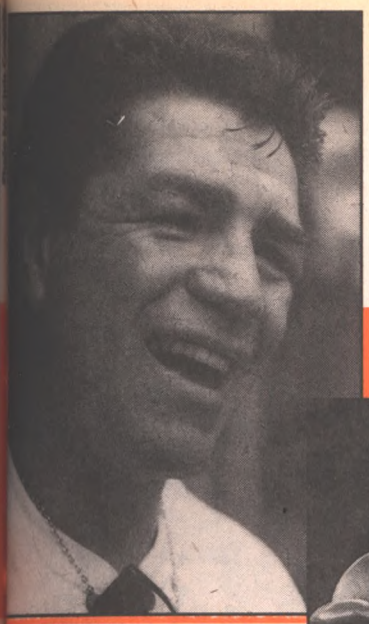
Over the course of the next ye spoke to Foreman perhaps three or f times. Slowly and quietly, he was wor his way back into shape. Finally, so where around the fall of 1986, Fore went into serious training. Then, as he promised, came a phone call.

"Randy, I'm ready."

I wished Foreman luck and told him I thrilled he was finally coming back. For George, I'm still thrilled over what has be the most successful athletic comeback of time. However, for boxing, and for all my fe commissioners, I am deeply sorry the come ever began.

You see, Foreman's comeback gave h hope to boxers around the world. Some were mer champions or former top contenders wh futures were long behind them. Most—and t are hundreds—were nothing but gutsy and ou courageous clubfighters. All were dreaming unrealistic, impossible dream of winning a wo championship. However, mediocrity was the any of them would ever achieve. Still, Foreman incredible comeback inspired older fighters way *Rocky* and the 1976 U.S. Olympic box team inspired so many young pugs.

Instead of telling the world comeba weren't for everybody, especially in box



Vito Antuofermo was denied a license because of an abnormality in his head test; Trevor Berbick surprised the previously unbeaten Melvin Foster; and Aaron Pryor would probably still fight—if a commission would approve him.

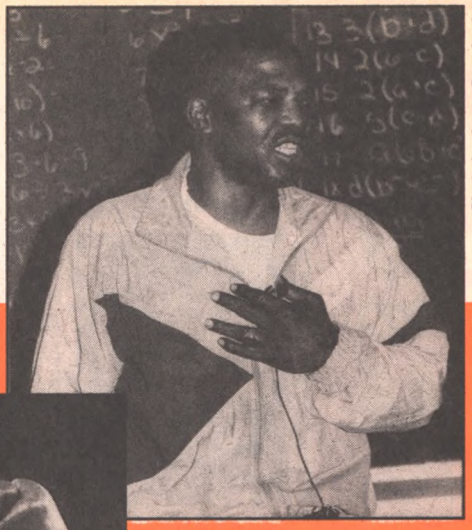


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

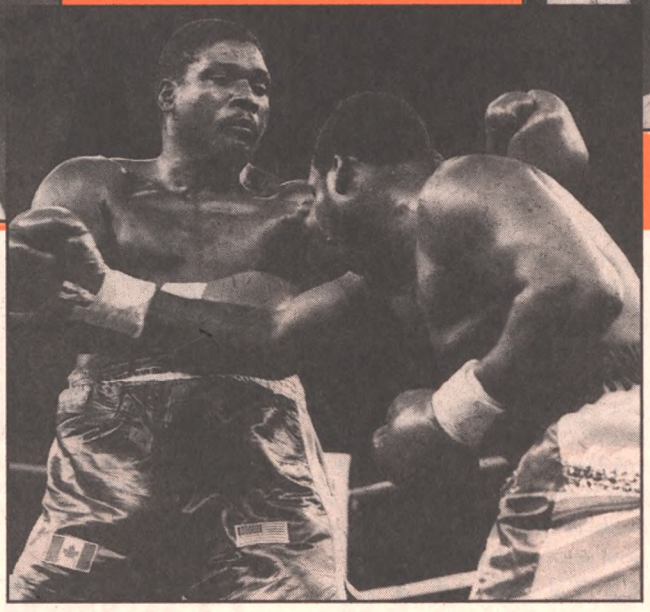


Photo by Chris Cassidy

Foreman insisted age was just a number. He jokingly toasted comebacks, saying, "Raise your glass of Geritol and drink to old age and comebacks." I cringed the first time he said it, and I've cringed the 10,000 times he's said it since.

What Foreman should have said was, "I've been blessed with a lot of strength and power. For all the retirees out there, let me do this for you." He didn't though, and into the offices of boxing commissions around the country, like water into the Titanic, the fighters streamed. The retired. The medically suspended. The dreamers. The has-beens and never-weres. The shot and the aging.

Since taking off the headset and putting on my commissioners's badge in 1988, I've had to deal with the comebacks and intended comebacks of dozens of boxers, most of whom cite George Foreman as their inspiration.

"There's no question about it," said Gary Shaw, a board member of the New Jersey State Athletic Control Board. "George Foreman's comeback—and you can add Larry Holmes' comeback, too—definitely inspired many long-retired boxers to lace up the gloves again. But most boxers attempting to come out of retirement fail to realize Foreman and Holmes are the exceptions to the rule."

And that unwritten rule says fighters of an advanced age (over 40) and in retirement for years will be nothing more than shadows of what they once were.

In 1994 alone, I've had conversations with several former contenders, six former world champions (Alexis Arguello, Billy Costello, Trevor Berbick, Leon Spinks, Vito Antuofermo, and Aaron Pryor), and countless clubfighters regarding their respective comebacks. Each of them likes to point to Foreman and Holmes and say, "They're older than I am. If they can do it, so can I." Every one of them sings the same song:

- "I'm smarter than when I left boxing."
- "I'm more mature than when I left."
- "I train harder than I ever did."
- "I feel I've got more than enough left to win a world title."
- "I honestly don't see a guy out there who can beat me."

Pryor still feels that way, even though commissions closed their doors to him in 1989, after doctors from my staff found him to be legally blind in his left eye.

"I'm in great shape," Pryor recently told me. "Is there a chance you can take a look at me and see what I mean?"

I shook my head sadly, knowing how much he really wants to come back.

I went through the same thing with Antuofermo last winter. The former middleweight king, whose last ring appearance came against Matthew Hilton in February 1985, came to see me in early-1994. He had just turned 41.

"I'm in great shape," he said. "In fact, I'm in better shape now than ever." He pulled up his shirt to expose a rippled midsection. He talked comeback. I tried to talk him out of it. He wore me down, the way he did most of his opponents. I gave in, agreeing to watch him in training.

Quite frankly, I liked what I saw and I agreed to license him. However, part of the licensing requirement in New York is the most extensive physical examination of any commission in the world. Included is a CATscan (a photo of the brain), an electroencephalogram (a measure of brain waves), an electrocardiogram (a heart test), an ophthalmological test, an annual physical checkup, a prefight exam, and drug-testing. Despite Antuofermo's tremendous physical condition, the slightest of abnormalities was found on one of his head tests, and a license was denied.

In 1992, and after six years in retirement, former junior welterweight champion Costello, 38, launched a comeback. He returned because he "couldn't stand watching the lack of competition

(Continued on page 73)

BATTLE of the LEGENDS

Welterweights

Wilfred Benitez

Bronx, New York
Career: 1973-1990
53-8-1 with 31 kayos

Few fighters, indeed few champions, possessed the reflexes and natural skills of this Puerto Rican wunderkind. In 1976, Benitez made history by becoming the youngest fighter ever to win a world title; he was 17 when he dethroned legendary junior welterweight Antonio Cervantes (W 15). Lacking in discipline, Benitez nonetheless went on to win titles at two additional weights. It seems almost unbelievable, but he probably never realized his full potential.

A brilliant counterpuncher and defensive fighter, the 5'10" Benitez often spoke of his "radar." In 1979, he jumped to welterweight and took the WBC crown from Carlos Palomino, and in '81, he again rose in weight and destroyed defending WBC super welterweight champion Mo Hope with a single right hand.

Fighting during the golden age of the welterweight and junior middleweight divisions, Benitez lost close fights to Sugar Ray Leonard (KO by 15) and Thomas Hearns (L 15), and outpointed Roberto Duran (W 15). He faded badly after losing to Mustafa Hamsho in 1983, and though he engaged in several comebacks, never again contended.

Pipino Cuevas

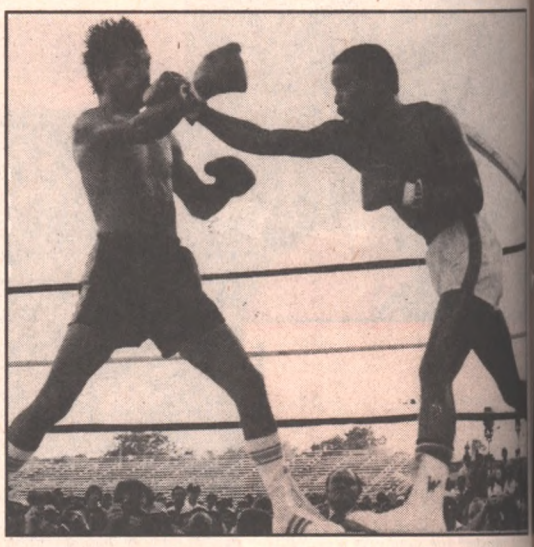
Mexico City, Mexico
Career: 1972-1989
35-15 with 31 kayos

Among the most beloved Mexican fighters of all-time, the stoic, boyish Cuevas turned pro four days after his 14th birthday. He became the youngest fighter ever to win the welterweight title when, in 1976, he stopped WBA champion Angel Espada at age 18. A merciless slugger who relied on a feared left hook, Cuevas' title reign was brutal. Not only did he kayo his opponents, he broke their eye sockets and cheekbones.

The 5'8" slugger kept the belt for four years and made 10 successful defenses, defeating, among others, Clyde Gray (KO 2), Harold Weston Jr. (KO 9), Pete Ranzany (KO 2), and Randy Shields (W 15). Defense number 11, his 1980 showdown with unbeaten contender Thomas Hearns, was greatly anticipated. It was also Cuevas' last title fight; Hearns crushed him in two rounds, and the Mexican never recovered.

Cuevas fought on and off throughout the '80s, with his most significant bout being a fourth-round kayo loss to Roberto Duran in 1983. In the welterweight round-robin of the early-'80s, he was the least active of the 147-pound superstars, failing to clash with Sugar Ray Leonard or Benitez.

Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle Of the Legends," the editors of THE RING *play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, please write to us.*



Benitez, a three-division champion, was at his peak when he dethroned WBC welterweight champion Carlos Palomino in January 1979. He was too slick and quick for the Californian.

FERNANDO PARAMO

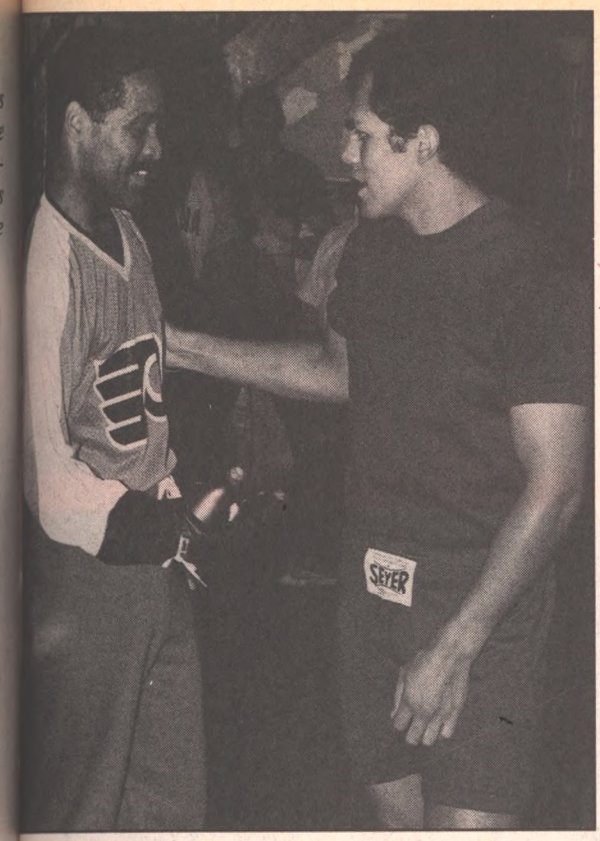
Cuevas was a tremendous one-punch kayo artist, and he became extremely popular; he was the first Mexican puncher who gained status at that high a weight. He didn't throw straight punches, but at his peak he was considered one of the best punchers in the world. But he lacked quite a bit on the boxing side. He had an average chin, at least until he met big punchers like Duran and Hearns, and he was defensively average. A lot of fighters were scared of him, so they fought cautiously.

Just before Cuevas won the title from Angel Espada, he lost a decision to Andy Price in Los Angeles. That told me he could be outboxed. For a brief period, Cuevas was overpowering. But when he fought a fighter who could box *and* punch like Hearns, he was not just outclassed, but overpowered, too.

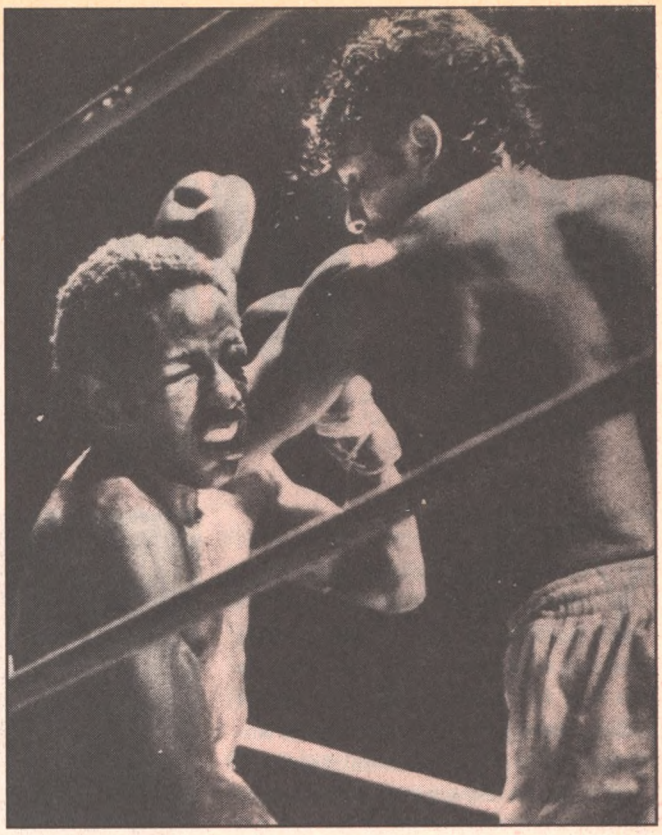
Benitez was not just a great defensive fighter. He was an all-around boxer who fought everyone in the ranks. In terms of quality of opposition, he fought tougher fighters than Cuevas. He could go the hard rounds. Cuevas wouldn't catch him all night.

Benitez would have enough savvy to stay away from Cuevas. He wouldn't fight him on the inside. He wouldn't stop Cuevas, but he'd win comfortably. Benitez by unanimous decision.

Fernando Paramo is the sports editor of the Los Angeles-based La Opinion, America's best-selling Spanish-language daily. He also works frequently as an analyst on televised fights.



nitez and Cuevas once met in the gym, but never clashed in the ring. It uld have been a classic boxer-puncher matchup at 147 pounds.



*Cuevas not only kayoed his challengers, he **annihilated** them. Harold Weston Jr. suffered a broken jaw during his attempt to capture the title in 1978.*

RANDY SHIELDS

Cuevas had that big left hook. Every once in a while he'd show some movement, but he was so intent on hitting you with that hook, that was all he could think about. He'd push in, push in, and try and land that haymaker. His jab and right hand were secondary. We fought 15 rounds, and I thought I won nine or 10 of them. He had a lot of resilience; he just kept going and refused to show his fatigue. Afterward, his nose was broken and the whole left side of his face was swollen because he'd taken right nd after right hand. They had to carry him out of the arena, and they said he s never the same.

Benitez was a hot-and-cold fighter, like Duran. He'd come on in spurts, then back. He had a lot of good defensive skills. I don't think he was that super fensively, but he was way, way above average. He also threw awkward unterpunches because his style was unpolished. His hands weren't that fast, but was very heavy-handed. He was a better puncher than his reputation suggested.

Benitez' defense would play a big hand in the fight. Cuevas had only one yle, and he'd put on a lot of pressure. With Benitez, it would all depend on here his mind was. When he wasn't into it, he was lackadaisical. But he'd at Cuevas on points, comfortably.

Randy Shields is a former welterweight contender who faced, among hers, Sugar Ray Leonard, Thomas Hearns, Benitez, and Cuevas. In 1978, was stopped in six rounds by Benitez, and in a 1979 try at the WBA 147- und crown, he lost a unanimous 15-round decision to Cuevas.

ALEX SHERER

Cuevas was a guy who came from nowhere, a very strong guy, and an awesome left-hooker with a great chin. He was almost a do-or-die kamikaze fighter. He generated a lot of excitement whenever he fought, and he was awesome at that time. Because of his popularity, he'd probably be a favorite over Benitez. But people forget how he struggled with Randy Shields, and how Andy Price tied him in knots. Still, styles permitting, he could run in and overpower a guy. I feel the pre-Hearns Cuevas would've knocked out Roberto Duran.

Benitez wasn't the most dedicated trainer in the world, but he was still one of the most underrated fighters of his era. If you don't believe that, watch a tape of his fight with Duran. Duran wanted to dominate him, but by the second round he knew he was gonna have trouble. Depending on the opponent, Benitez was sometimes average offensively, and other times as good as anybody. One thing most people don't know: He was a great bodypuncher. In a way, he was a modern-age Jack Johnson, saying, "I'm going to make you miss." He had such a way of knowing the pace of a fight. From Cuevas' point of view, Benitez' boxing knowledge and counterpunching ability were all wrong.

Too much ringmanship: Benitez by decision or late-rounds stoppage.

Alex Sherer is a Los Angeles-based trainer and boxing historian. He was a longtime scout and trainer for the Kronk gym, and currently works as a consultant for Forum Boxing.

CHIQUITA-CARBAJAL III WAS BULL

Ricardo Lopez Is The Real Thing

As TV announcers Steve Albert and Bobby Czyz look on in disbelief, the fans at Plaza de Toros, displeased with Gonzalez-Carbajal III, bombard the ring with seat cushions.

By Nigel Collins

You could tell the crowd at Mexico City's Plaza de Toros was unhappy. It wasn't just the boos and whistles cascading down from the bleachers. Hundreds of seat cushions were flying through the night air like Frisbees, flopping to rest in and around the boxing ring. Luckily, the seats were nailed down.

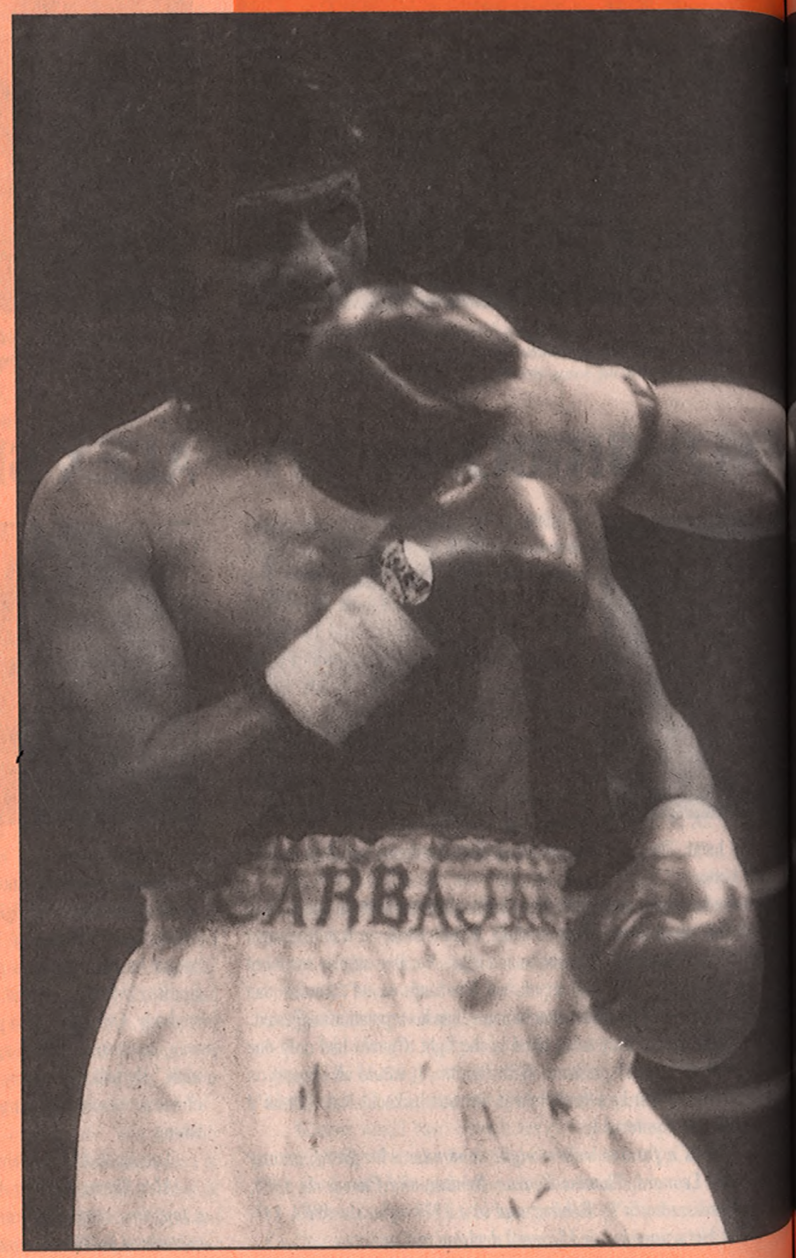
It was not the festive scene you would expect following a victory by one of the nation's favorite sons. But winning has never been enough for Mexico's passionate boxing enthusiasts. And even though homeboy Chiquita Gonzalez emerged victorious from his rubber match with arch-rival Michael Carbajal, the WBC/IBF junior flyweight champion did not prevail in a manner befitting his macho heritage.

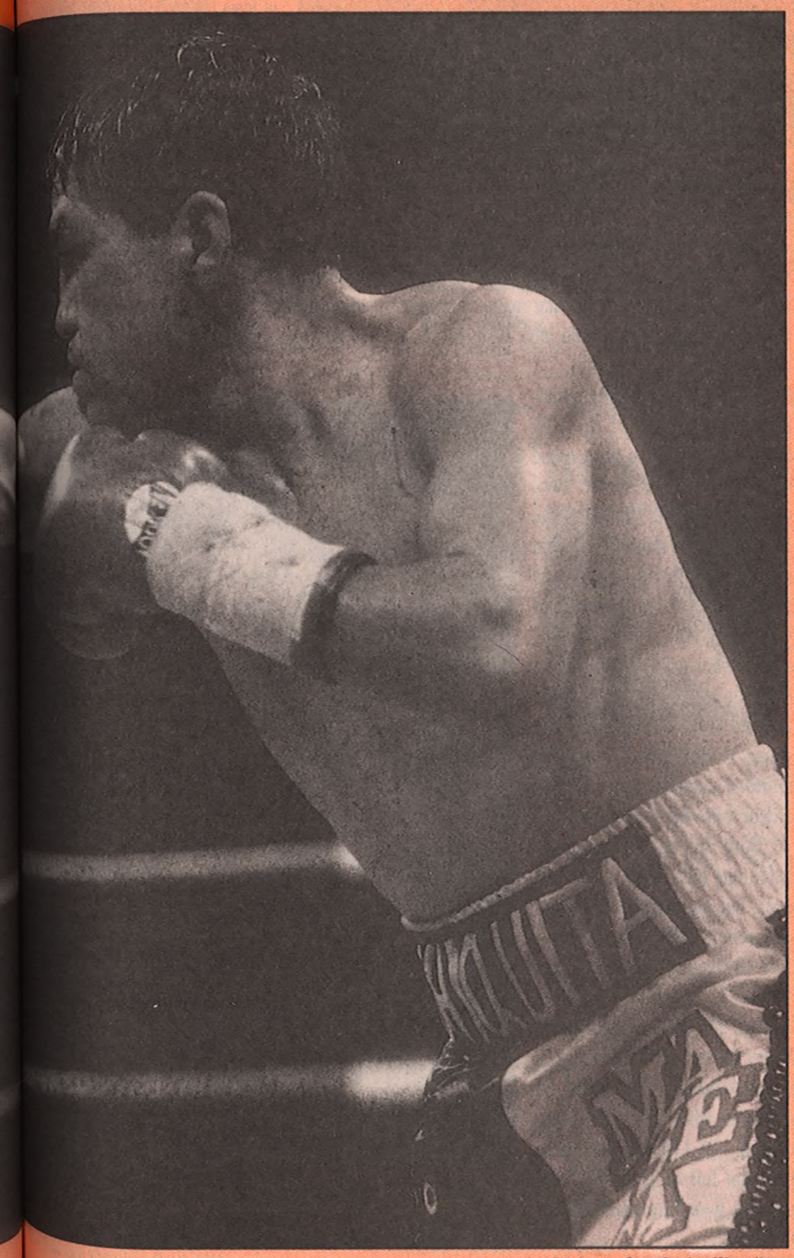
Mexican fans apply the same standard to their boxers as they do the bulls and matadors who regularly do battle at the Plaza de Toros. To make a good fight, the bull has to charge straight and true, and the matador has to place himself as close to disaster as possible without tasting the horns. In many ways a good boxing match is the same.

The classic fights are invariably between matadors and bulls (Corbett-Sullivan, Robinson-LaMotta, Ali-Frazier). Sure, there are also scads of great battles between bulls. But match a pair of matadors and nine times out of 10 you're gonna get a stinker. And that's no bull.

After their second fight, a points victory for Chiquita in February, you expected Gonzalez to play it cute. But when Carbajal declined to mount the sort of unrestrained assault required to create an explosion, the chemistry was thrown completely out of whack.

Carbajal blamed his lukewarm effort on Gonzalez' reluctance to mix it up. But he seemed content to allow the defending champion to dictate both the style and pace. At no time did he display the fierce determination that enabled him to rally back from two knockdowns and win their first encounter via seventh-round knockout. That encounter was 1993's Fight of the Year. Gonzalez-Carbajal III might have been the Disappointment of the Year for 1994.





Photos by Tom Casino/Showtime

It's hard to evaluate Carbajal right now, difficult to know what direction his career is going to take. But Bob Arum has to be feeling a whole lot better than he did when Carabajal jumped promotional ship and signed with Don King.

For his part, Gonzalez boxed even more cautiously than in the second fight, when the erstwhile slugger fooled Carbajal with his duck-and-dart role reversal. This time he fought not to lose, rather than to win, a tactic that rarely results in excitement.

"He won, but he was too defensive; you've got to convince people who bought tickets that you gave them their money's worth," said Gonzalez' long-time adviser, Rafael Mendoza. "You've got to have fire, and Chiquita did not have it tonight."

The 15,000 fans at the 40,000-seat amphitheater had every right to be disgruntled, as did SET/KingVision's pay-per-view customers. Expectations were understandably high. The first Carbajal-Gonzalez fight boosted both fighters into the million-dollar purse bracket. Sadly, the third fight turned out to be a prosaic encounter that pleased no one, with the possible exception of the cushion vendors.

Now that the Gonzalez-Carbajal feud has fizzled out, seven-figure purses for 108-pounders are surely a thing of the past—or until Mike Tyson goes on a world-record hunger strike. Gonzalez' future is also in doubt. His mother has been pressuring him to quit, and Chiquita spoke of retirement before and after the fight.

"He will not make his decision until after the New Year," said Mendoza. "I told him to cool

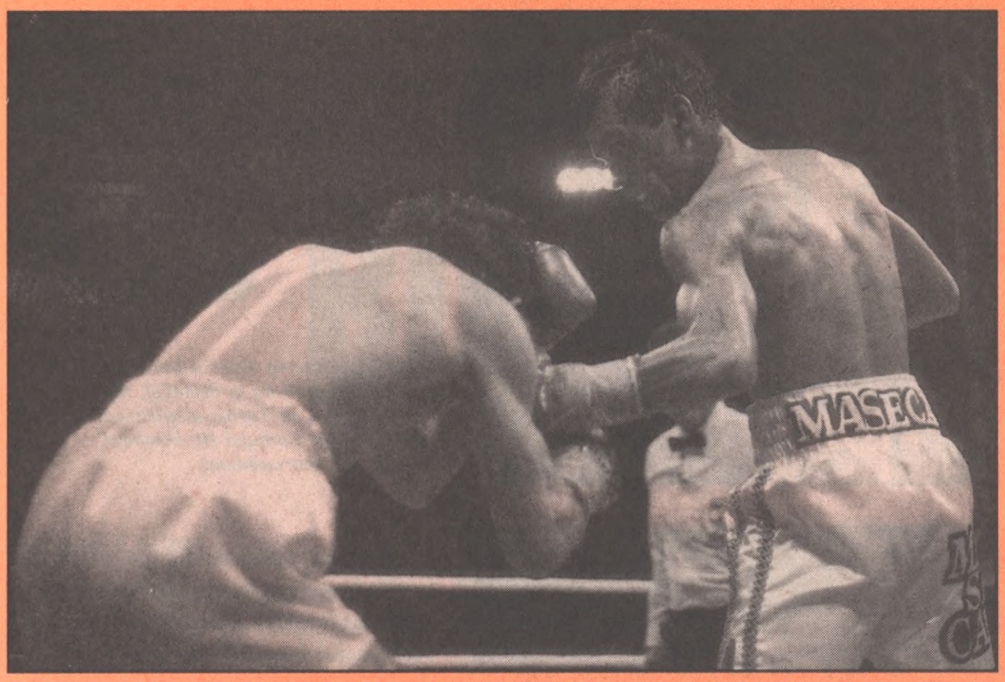


Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Perhaps either Gonzalez or Carbajal will be matched with WBC strawweight champion Ricardo Lopez, who outshined the headliners in stopping Javier Varguez. Lopez has made 12 defenses of the WBC strawweight title.

down and think it over. Personally, I would like to see him fight again. It would be a great shame for him to go out with a fight like this. The fans want to see the old Chiquita. Until the second fight with Carbajal, he was always a fiery fighter. Win or lose, Chiquita should go out in a sensational fight."

Should he decide to honor his adviser's wish and continue to fight, the 28-year-old Gonzalez has at least three big-fight options: 1) attempt to unify the title by clashing with WBA titlist Leo Gamez, who, as we went to press, was scheduled to defend against Eric Griffin on December 15; 2) move up and challenge WBC flyweight champion Yuri Arbachakov; 3) defend against countryman and WBC strawweight champion Ricardo Lopez.

Of the alternatives, a bout with fellow pound-for-pound entrant Lopez, who successfully defended for the 12th time on the undercard, is the most attractive. Lopez, 38-0 (28), looked tremendous in tallying an eighth-round TKO of rugged Javier Varguez, though it must be recognized the face-first challenger was the perfect foil—plenty of guts and not much head movement.

Varguez marched bravely into the teeth of Lopez' classy combinations, seldom bothering to duck or block a punch. Here was a bull worthy of the matador in front of him—and just as destined for defeat as his four-legged brethren.

The champion glided gracefully around the ring, unleashing quick bursts of punches with unerring precision. It was easier to count the blows he missed than the multitude that connected. *(See "Ringside Reports" on page 66.)* Had either Gonzalez or Carbajal exhibited anywhere near Lopez' artistry, or for that matter Varguez' valor, the main event would have been far more satisfying.

As it was, the highly anticipated third clash of the tiny titans turned out to be a faded carbon copy of bout two. Gonzalez, 107½, Ciudad Neza, Mexico, spent most of the first six rounds ducking under and pulling away from the leads of Carbajal, 108, Phoenix, Arizona. The novelty of seeing Chiquita as artful dodger quickly wore thin, and when his late-round charge turned out to be more of a canter, even his most ardent followers turned sour.

Both fighters suffered butt-inflicted cuts over their left eyes, but highlights were virtually nonexistent. Scores of 117-114 (Belgium's Bob Logist), 116-113 (France's Alfred Asaro), and 114-114 (Canada's Harry Davis) gave Gonzalez a majority decision and raised his record to 41-2 (30). (THE RING scored 116-114 for Carbajal.) Carbajal fell to 32-2 (19). The referee was England's Larry O'Connell.

While Gonzalez' camp reac... admitted that Chiquita didn't exa... cover himself in glory, Carba... camp seemed in denial.

"Michael has no regrets," ... Danny Carbajal, the former cham... on's brother, manager, and train... "We figured that the Mexican ... would make Gonzalez stand still ... bang, but he wouldn't. See, he's ... Michael's power before. He knows ... his heart he can't take Michael ... punch. But I've never seen a cham... on backpedal so much and still win.

But why didn't Carbajal adjust ... at least try something different?

"The only thing he could ha... done differently was to go in the ... wild," said Carbajal. "And that's ... Michael."

While it remains to be seen ... Carbajal's tepid showing will affe... his popularity with his fans, critics ... of Gonzalez south of the Rio Grande was ... restricted to Mendoza. The nation's most cel... brated sports figure, Julio Cesar Chavez, ... scolded his little brother in arms.

(Continued on page ...

Chiquita was all smiles while celebrating with his son, but a ... of days later he was contemplating retirement. He reconsidered ... plans to fight on. Be sure a fourth fight with Carbajal won't ha...

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By Stanley Weston
Publisher, THE RING Magazine

TIME CAPSULES

"I'M NOT A COWARD!"

(February 10, 1941)

A month before his scheduled title bout against heavyweight champion Joe Louis in Detroit, gigantic Abe Simon appeared as the special guest on THE RING editor Nat Fleischer's weekly NBC radio program. From the start, Fleischer, together with his co-host, famous blow-by-blow announcer Sam Taub, probed Simon for any signs of fear.

Gigantic Abe Simon is flanked by THE RING *editor Nat Fleischer (left) and famed blow-by-blow announcer Sam Taub during a radio interview before Simon's courageous battle with Joe Louis. Note the size of Simon's hands.*

"Abe," Fleischer began, "you certainly are well-aware of the tremendous power in Louis' fists. Now tell me, honestly, when Joe nails you with one of his blockbusters, what will happen? Can you survive his best shots and still sustain an attack of your own?"

Big Abe, a jovial fellow, always smiling, a sterling example of non-violence, and certainly far from being a dummy, had anticipated that question, but not right off the bat. "Can't you at least say hello first, how are you feeling?" he responded good-naturedly. Obviously embarrassed, Fleischer apologized. "I'm sorry, Abe. Please forgive my rudeness." But without pausing, he repeated the question.

"Anybody who says he's not even a little bit afraid of Joe Louis is one of two things: a liar or crazy," Simon philosophized. "I can't say I fear Louis. I prefer to say I respect him. And I can tell you I will not run away, because I'd look ridiculous. A man of my size, with advantages of 50 pounds in weight and five inches in height, would look like a coward if he didn't at least stand his ground." Then, with an unnatural sternness etched on his normally jolly countenance, the giant drove home his point loud and very clear: "I'm not a coward!"

On the brisk night of Friday, March 21, 1941, before an SRO crowd of 18,908 jammed into Detroit's Olympic Arena, Abraham Simon of New York proved that he was far from being a coward. All the prefight betting concerned not who would win, but how long Big Abe would survive against the ferocious champion. For example, the odds were even money Simon would be around for the start of round three, and 2-1 he would not come out for the fifth. But Abe fooled them all by "living" until the 1:20 mark of round 13, when referee Sam Hennessey stopped it. So courageous was Simon's performance (he was knocked down five times and still standing at the finish), Louis' hometown crowd paid Abe overwhelming homage with a roaring standing ovation. The champion's tribute came in the form of polite applause.

Big Abe was rewarded in three ways for his awe-inspiring display of guts: that rousing postfight ovation, a check for $8,371.10, and the supreme prize of all—a return match with the champion. Talk about guts …

LISTON'S BUFFER

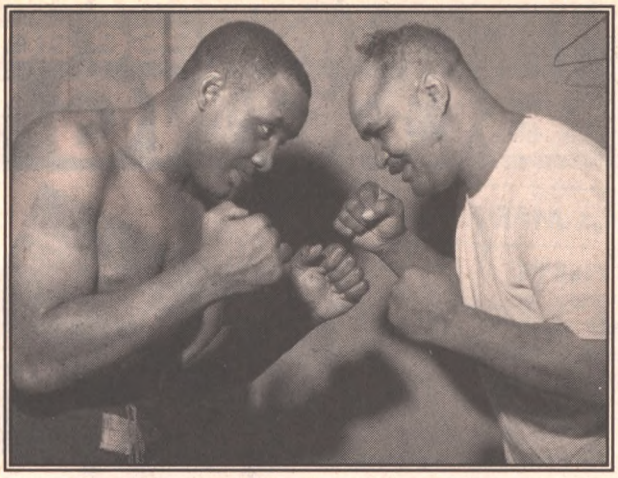
(July 14, 1963)

It's been said a boxer is only as good as his trainer. In today's super-hyped boxing trade, trainers often attract as much media attention as their charges. In some cases, the trainer actually outshines the guy wearing the belt. This happens when a fighter is apt to freeze at press conferences and can't put two words together that make any sense. It's a situation some trainers relish, a chance to be recognized and to suggest to the world that "if it wasn't for me, nobody would ever have heard of this guy."

Although Sonny Liston didn't exactly freeze, he was always embarrassingly uncomfortable when bombarded with questions while video cameras hummed. And when Sonny stubbornly refused to appear at a press conference, as was often the case, only when threatened with breach of contract and loss of pay did he very reluctantly, and slowly, make his way to the dais.

Liston was very lucky to have Willie Reddish for a trainer. Though not one who sought to get his picture on the TV news, "Wise Willie" was always willing and ready to step in when Sonny stumbled over his words. Reddish considered it part of his job. But Willie was always quick to add, with an infectious grin, "Even though they don't pay me for those little extras."

In his fascinating book *A Neutral Corner*, A.J. Liebling, probably the most gifted boxing journalist who ever lived, tells how he cornered Reddish at the Thunderbird Hotel in Las Vegas, where Liston was training for his first title defense, against Floyd Patterson, in July 1963. Sonny had separated himself from public contact, except at the craps tables. Wrote Liebling, "Reddish is a large, light-colored buffer between Liston and the rest of the world; Sonny, he explains, is really a good-natured fellow who just likes to scowl and shout. He likes to get a man worked up, understand? But at the same time he'll do anything for you. Now me, I'm just the other way. I seldom holler, but when I do, I'll stay angry the longest time … "



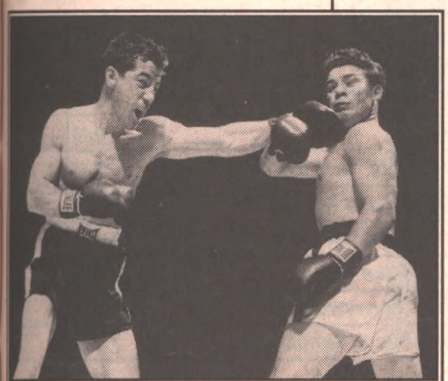
A bond between former heavyweight champion Sonny Liston and devoted trainer Willie Reddish went far beyond the gym and prize ring. Nobody could influence the sulking "Big Bear" like Reddish.

Like most trainers, Reddish was a former boxer. He had about 35 fights as a heavyweight, his highlight having stayed 10 rounds with Jersey Joe Walcott in 1936. Although Willie had enormous respect for Liston, it was obvious his heart belonged to Walcott. Who would have won in a matchup of Liston-Walcott? "A tough call," Reddish said. "A very tough call." Lucky for Willie, Sonny was at the craps table.

WHEN PITY TURNED ROCKY SOFT

(March 30, 1950)

Only astute *New York Post* boxing analyst Jimmy Cannon suspected some underlying reason for former middleweight champion Rocky Graziano's limp performance against 11-5 underdog Tony Janiro, whom Rocky outweighed by seven pounds. The morning after the Madison Square Garden 10-rounder, Cannon's piercing piece hit the newsstands, causing anguish and disdain among bettors and fans alike, and raising the numbing question: Has the killer gone out of Rocky?



Rocky Graziano's stiff left jab catches Tony Janiro off-balance in the opening round of their Madison Square Garden 10-rounder. Only after the fight was over did the strange relationship between Rocky and Tony surface.

"There is in Rocky Graziano," began Cannon, "an unmovable faith in the discredited fable of himself. It exists for him alone, as though only he can understand what occurs in a fight. Pity, Graziano contended after Tony Janiro journeyed 10 rounds with him to a draw, streaked his ferocity and turned him soft. Compassion, unnoticed by the multitude that watched the event, fleeced him of his dirty flurries. Loyalty to a gymnasium friendship, Graziano is sure, deprived him of his foul violence … "

In the dressing room, Graziano confided to Cannon that only enemies fire his rage, that Janiro was his friend, incapable of "setting me off." But it bothered Rocky when his pal Tony used his thumbs and glove laces to massage his eyes. Wrote Cannon: "Once Graziano appealed to Janiro that he was breaking their gentleman's agreement by trying to blind him. It infuriated Graziano that a buddy would degrade his friendship. So confident was Rocky that his behavior was beyond reproach that he refused to dirty his profanity with the unspeakable word: choke."

A frustrated Graziano admitted to the entire press corps crammed into his dressing room: "I said to Tony, 'Smarten up … ' I didn't even mention what I *wasn't* doing to him. But I told him, 'I'm being nice to you. Smarten up and be nice to *me*.'" To his credit, Graziano complained not one word about the decision, which just about everybody, fans and press alike, believed was rightfully deserved.

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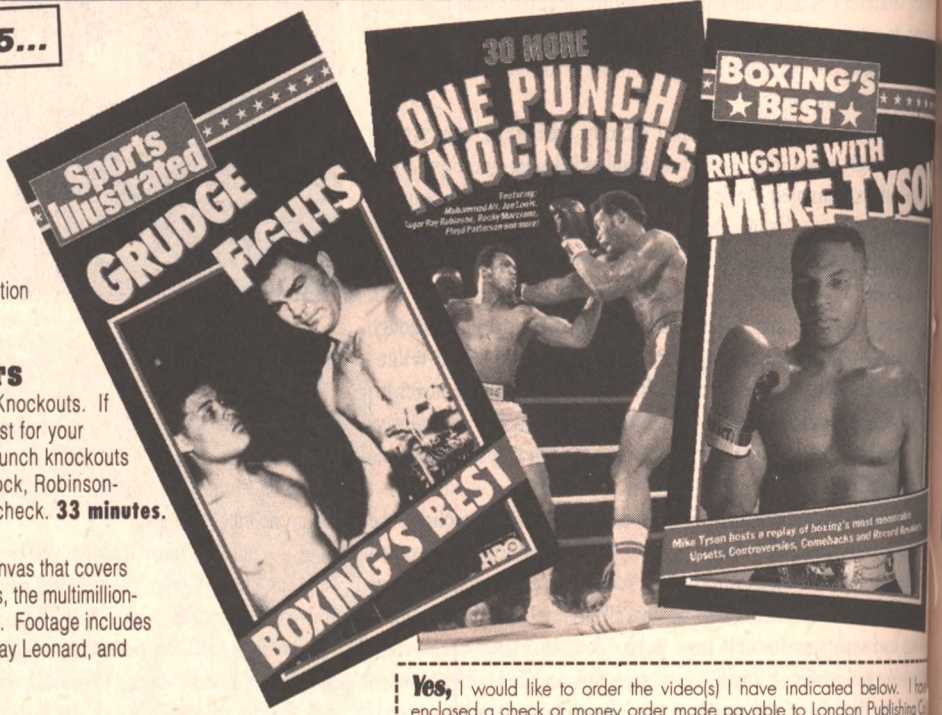

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Mike Tyson puts it all together in a colorful canvas that covers the main events, the controversies, the upsets, the multimillion-dollar gates, the records, and the comebacks. Footage includes Sonny Liston, Jake LaMotta, Ray Robinson, Ray Leonard, and much more. **44 minutes.**

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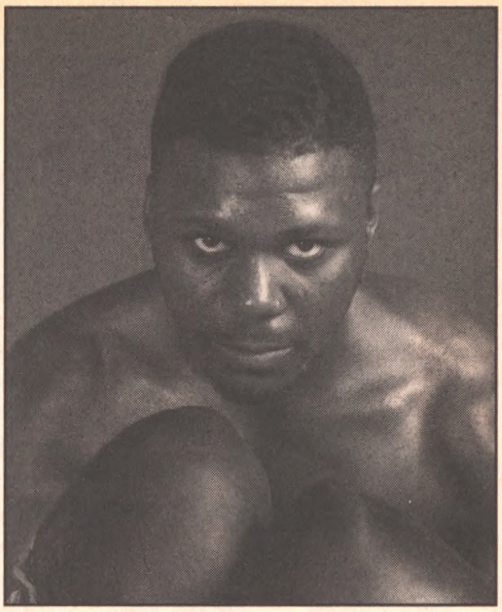

Rodney Toney

Middleweight

By Tom Deedy

Outside the ring, Rodney Toney is an engaging, personable young man. Inside, his rich mixture of balance, hand speed, and power invites the inevitable comparisons to his celebrated second cousin, James Toney. James' famous quick temper is not an obvious element of Rodney's style. But the confidence is, as is the yearning to make boxing history.

The 26-year-old Toney, a Boston native now fighting out of Joe Sayatovich's First Fighter Squadron in Campo, California, has compiled a record of 19-0-2 (11). He says he'd someday like to meet his second cousin. *Outside* the ring, that is.

In his triumphant return to New England, Toney scored a nationally televised split 10-round decision over one-time top-10 contender Charles Brewer at Foxwoods Casino in Ledyard, Connecticut. In edging the powerpunching

(Continued on page 78)

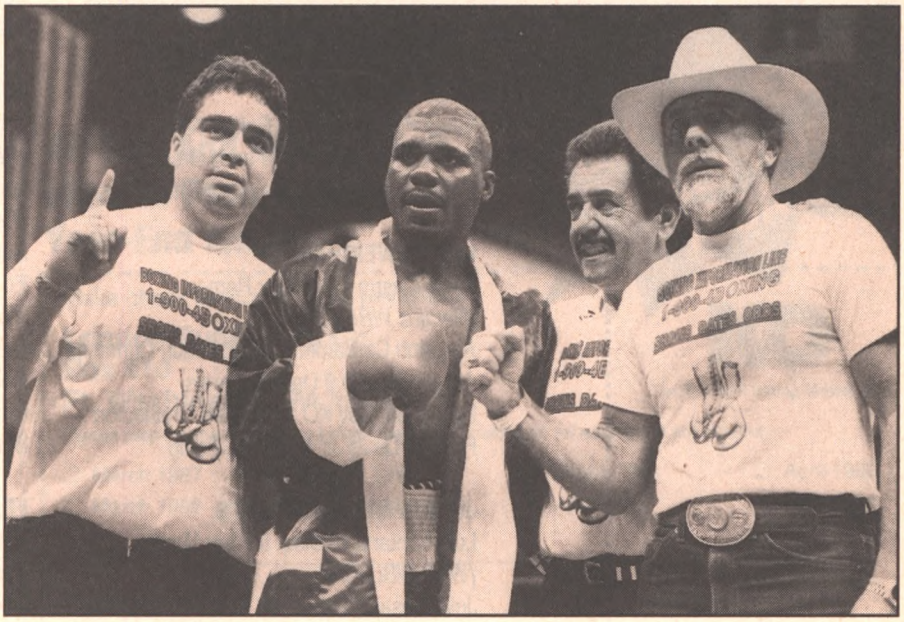

Photo by Chris Cassidy

Toney with the crew after beating Charles Brewer

PRO RECORD

1992		
June 27	Don Goodwin, Reseda, CA	KO 2
July 28	Joseph Kiwanuka, Reseda	Tech. Draw 1
Oct. 30	Francisco Perez, San Bernardino, CA	W 5
Nov. 24	Randy Smith, Reseda	W 4
1993		
Feb. 1	Mehrdad Fakhrazar, Inglewood, CA	W 4
Feb. 23	Robert Carson, Reseda	KO 2
March 1	Francisco Magallon, Inglewood	W 4
March 30	Chris Sande, San Diego	W 8
July 29	Kenny Whack, Irvine, CA	W 6
Oct. 28	Donaldo Ortega, Irvine	KO 8
Dec. 2	Randy Smith, Irvine	D 6
Dec. 18	Concepcion Hernandez, Puebla, Mexico	KO 4
1994		
Feb. 8	Kenny McCullough, Reseda	KO 2
Feb. 18	James Rivas, San Diego	W 6
April 28	Luis Mejia, Irvine	KO 1
June 3	Ramon Felix, Tijuana, Mexico	KO 1
June 27	Raul Meza, Tijuana	KO 2
Aug. 18	Bazante Blanco, Irvine	KO 2
Sept. 12	Eric Valdez, Las Vegas	KO 3
Oct. 8	Jaime Montano, San Diego	KO 1
Nov. 8*	Charles Brewer, Ledyard, CT	W 10

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
21	19	0	2	11

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Jorge Luis Gonzalez KO 2 Tui Toia
Jorge Luis Gonzalez KO 7 Olian Alexander
Buster Mathis Jr. KO 5 Lyle McDowell
Jeremy Williams KO 2 Levi Billups
Peter McNeeley KO 1 Lorenzo Boyd
Phil Jackson KO 8 Martin Foster
Lou Savarese KO 4 Kenny Merritt
Tom Glesby KO 1 Bill Corrigan
Josh Imardiyi KO 2 Tom Glesby
Johnny Nelson W 12 Nicolai Kulpin
Chris Byrd KO 5 Ron Gullette

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Orlin Norris KO 2 James Heath
(Retains WBA Title)
Anaclet Wamba KO 1 Charles Dixon
(Non-Title Bout)
Adolpho Washington KO 8 David Izeqwire
Saul Montana KO 3 Jade Scott
Chemak Saleta W 8 Brian LaSpada
Dominic Carter W 10 Terry Scott

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Fabrice Tiozzo KO 4 Maurice Core
Ole Klemetsen KO 1 Earl Butler
Mickey Goodwin KO 4 Tony Golden

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Roy Jones W 12 James Toney
(Wins IBF Title)
Vinny Pazienza W 10 Rafael Williams
Rodney Toney W 10 Charles Brewer
Rodney Toney KO 1 Jaime Montano

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Jorge Castro KO 2 Alex Ramos
(Retains WBA Title)
Agostino Cardamone W 12 Shaun Cummins
Joe Lipsey KO 9 Derrick James
Lonnie Bradley KO 2 Matthew Charleston
Howard Davis Jr. KO 7 Rip Rettig

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Luis Santana W Disq. 5 Terry Norris
(Wins WBC Title)
Julio Cesar Vasquez W 12 Tony Marshall
(Retains WBA Title)
Verno Phillips W 12 Santos Cardona
Raul Marquez W 10 Jorge Vaca
Ahmet Dottuev KO 2 Bruno Wuestgenb
P.J. Goossen W 10 Pat Lawlor

WELTERWEIGHTS
Hector Camacho KO 4 Rusty Derouen
Gary Jacobs W 10 Marcelo DiCroce
Miguel Gonzalez W 10 Shibata Flores
Morris East W 10 Jeff Malcolm
Lavell Finger W 10 Curtis Byrd

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
David Kamau KO 2 Jorge Palomares
George Scott W 8 Antonio Ojeda
Jan Bergman KO 1 Benjie Marquez
Soren Sondergaard KO 1 Kenny Bays
Hector Lopez KO 4 Mario Morales
Sammy Fuentes KO 5 David Ojeda
Khalid Rahilou KO 3 Gert Bo Jacobsen
John Armijo KO 7 Mike Powell
Lupe Pintor KO 1 Kevin Sedam

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Oscar De La Hoya KO 3 Carl Griffith
Shane Mosley KO 5 Jose Luis Madrid
Billy Schwer KO 6 Manuel Hernandez
Ivan Robinson W 10 Juan Negron
Sharmba Mitchell KO 2 Paul Walker
Fabian Tejeda KO 6 Alex Perez
Paris Alexander W 10 Johnny Montanez
Didoy Canoy D 10 Shinichi Komatsu

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
John-John Molina KO 10 Wilson Rodrig
(Retains IBF Title)
Genaro Hernandez W 12 Jimmy Garcia
(Retains WBA Title)
Arturo Gatti W 12 Jose Sanabria
Ed Hopson W 12 Troy Dorsey
Victor Hugo Paz W 10 Miguel Francia
Carlos Hernandez KO 4 Fernando Rosa
Roberto Garcia W 10 Derrick Gainer
Cris Saguid W 10 Toshikazu Suzuki
Boris Sinitsin KO 7 Giorgio Campanella

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Kevin Kelley KO 10 Pete Taliaferro
(Non-Title Bout)
Chico Castillo Tech. Win 4 Little Guns Pumar

Bones Adams W 10 Tommy Parks
Tsuyoshi Harada W 10 Ric Bajelot
Little Guns Pumar KO 9 Ericel Nucamendi

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Vuyani Bungu W 12 Felix Camacho
(Retains IBF Title)
Wayne McCullough W 10 Fabrice Benichou
Eddie Croft KO 7 Dio Andujar
Raul Diaz W Disq. 8 Agapito Sanchez
Victor Rabanales KO 7 Jun Tan Sato
John Lowey KO 2 Leon Rozier
Daniel Jimenez KO 6 Abigail Contreras

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Daorung MP Petroleum Tech. Win 5
In Shik Koh
(Retains WBA Title)
Ricardo Medina W 12 Gerardo Martinez

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Danny Romero KO 1 Domingo Sosa
Samson Elite-Gym KO 5 Ippo Gallo
Jaji Sibali D 12 Vuyani Nene
Joel Luna Zarate KO 2 Mike Espinoza
Jose Diaz KO 6 Jose Quirino

FLYWEIGHTS
Jose DeJesus KO 8 Fernando Martinez
Takashi Ohba KO 4 Bong Jun Kim

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Chiquita Gonzalez W 12 Michael Carbajal
(Retains WBC/IBF Titles)
Melchor Cob Castro W 10 Leon Salazar
Ma Villamor KO 8 Hang Kyu Chang
Alex Sanchez W 10 Pablo Tiznado

STRAWWEIGHTS
Watanapol Sor Vorapin KO 3 Carlos
Rodriguez
(Retains IBF Title)
Ricardo Lopez KO 8 Javier Varguez
(Retains WBC Title)
Diana Porpaoin W 12 Manuel Herrera
(Retains WBA Title)
Indy Tabanas KO 5 Genyu Maeshiro
Rocky Lin KO 7 Leo Ramirez

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTERS *of the* MONTH

Don't worry, we won't wimp out when it comes time to select our Fighter of the *Year. (See next month's issue.)* But for monthly honors, we opted not to choose between Big George and Jones, who scored sensational, albeit vastly different, wins in the same ring at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas.

What Foreman did on November 5 elevated his legend to another level. Winning the heavyweight title 20 years after losing it to Muhammad Ali was an incredible accomplishment in itself. But to do so with one punch, a blow that will live with Sugar Ray Robinson's left hook kayo of Gene Fullmer and Rocky Marciano's right cross knockout of Jersey Joe Walcott, added the perfect measure of drama. Who could dare doubt Big George ever again?

As for Jones, has there been a finer big-fight performance in recent years than his unanimous decision victory over defending IBF super middleweight champion James Toney on November 18? In a pick-'em fight, Jones baffled his opponent, mixing the speed and reflexes of Pernell Whitaker and the presence of Sugar Ray Leonard with moves that belong to nobody else.

Foreman can't go on forever. (At least we don't think so.) Jones, however, is just beginning to shine. There's reason to smile about the future.

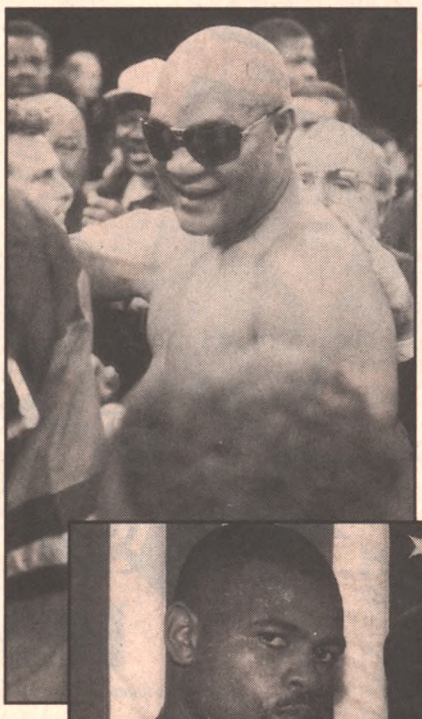


Photo by Anthony Neste/HBO

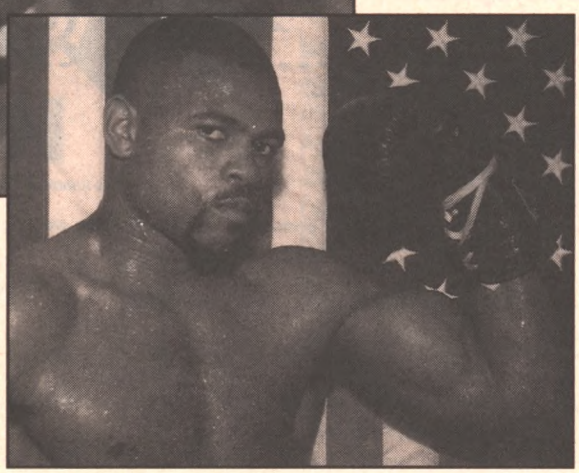


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

• • • •

George Foreman & Roy Jones

Ricardo Lopez KO 8 Javier Varguez

Mexico City, Mexico: The five-title fight card was promoted by Don King and touted as "The Real Thing In The Bull Ring." Most real at the Plaza de Toros was WBC strawweight champion Lopez, who retained the title for the 12th time and upstaged co-stars Chiquita Gonzalez and Michael Carbajal.

Lopez, 105, Mexico City, outboxed and outpunched "Candelita" Varguez, 104¾, Merida, Mexico, until referee Guadalupe Garcia (Mexico) stepped in to halt the slaughter at 1:33 of the eighth round.

"He was very tough," said the always-gracious Lopez. "But I've had other opponents who were more physical."

Varguez, a 5'1½" southpaw, had no trouble dropping to strawweight for his second try at a world title; in 1991, he had lost on points to then-IBF 108-pound champion Carbajal. What this matchup proved, however, was that it's time for Lopez to rise to junior flyweight. "I'm going up real soon in search of more money," the titlist promised.

On this night, he was content to extend his division record for successful defenses and please the crowd of about 15,000 with his masterful ring skills. Lopez opened by landing a crisp jab, then began circling his foe. The tempo rarely varied.

A clash of heads in the second resulted in blood streaming down the champion's head from a cut on top of his noggin. Of further annoyance was Varguez' tendency to punch low, especially in round four. However, the challenger went unpunished.

Lopez, 38-0 (28), was particularly outstanding in the fifth, when he struck with a variety of combinations to the head and body. By the seventh, Varguez, 37-15-1 (27), was in retreat, and Garcia was warning him to fight back. When Lopez landed a left-right and followed up in the eighth, the referee intervened.

Lopez finished the fight with a pair of swollen hands, which figured to affect his plans to appear on King's pay-per-view show in Monterey on December 10. Regardless, given Gonzalez' disappointing win over Carbajal, the unbeaten Lopez is not only the real thing, but in the lighter weight classes, the only thing.

The judges were Gelasio Perez (Mexico), Victor Cervantes (Mexico), and Marty Denkin (USA).

(11-12-94)

Bruce Williams

Luis Santana W Disq. 5 Terry Norris

Mexico City, Mexico: You can't blame Norris if he refuses to ever again fight in Mexico. Bad things happen to him down there. *Bad* things.

And weird things, too. In December 1993, Norris helped rejuvenate Simon Brown's career by suffering a shocking fourth-round kayo loss. Seven months later, on the Gonzalez-Carbajal undercard at Plaza de Toros, he turned the less-than-ordinary Santana into a world champion.

In the first defense of his second reign as WBC super welterweight champion, the 27-year-old Norris, 151, Campo, California, easily won the first two rounds, as Santana, 152½, New York City via La Romana, Dominican Republic, couldn't cope with his hand speed and in-and-out attack. Late in the third, however, a right to the chin staggered the champion, and seconds later, referee Mitch Halpern (USA) ruled a knockdown when Santana pushed down on Norris' neck with his left hand and connected with a right to the lower back, sending "Terrible Terry" sprawling. Things were further complicated in the fourth, when a clash of heads cost Norris a point and left Santana bleeding from the top of the head.

In the fifth, Norris was regaining his momentum, landing lefts from all angles and avoiding Santana's bullish rushes, when Santana missed a wild right, lunged into the ropes, spun out, and was greeted by a right to the back of his neck by Norris. Santana went down spread-eagled, his eyelids flickering, then closing. Most ringsiders thought the challenger was trying for an Oscar; even veteran Mexican ringside doctor Horacio Ramirez Mercado, chief of the Federal District Boxing Commission's medical staff and one of the top physicians in the WBC hierarchy, spent more time telling Santana to get up and fight than he did examining the fallen boxer.

With the anti-American crowd booing the perplexed Norris, who stood in a neutral corner, the WBC officials finally ruled, after nearly 10 minutes, to disqualify the champion at the 2:02 mark for landing an illegal punch. Santana, carried from the ring on a stretcher, was declared the new champion.

"The doctor's job is not to guess whether [Santana] was playing possum or not," said promoter Don King.

Santana was taken to the hospital, where he received the examination that was lacking in the ring. He was released later that night. "I felt a kind of cramp, a crunching at the top of my spine," he said, "and I lost my sense of balance. But thanks to God the problem didn't get worse.

"I respected Norris because he's a good fighter. But from now on I'm going to hate him because he could have killed me. He's a coward for attacking me in the back. I'm prepared to give a rematch to Norris, but on my terms. I would've knocked Terry out in three rounds more because when I hit him on the chin, his legs quivered."

The 35-year-old Santana, 39-15-2 (29), hadn't fought in exactly one year and had lost seven of his previous 10 bouts. He was nonetheless rated ninth by the WBC. Norris, 38-5 (23), protested the verdict. According to Santana's manager, Grant Elvis Phillips, there will be a rematch in May. For Norris, a proposed showdown against WBC welterweight champion Pernell Whitaker has been put on hold.

The judges were Tony Castellano (USA), Memo Ayon (Mexico), and Marco Antonio Rodriguez (Mexico).

(11-12-94)

Bruce Williams

Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Santana was carried from the ring—after a lengthy delay

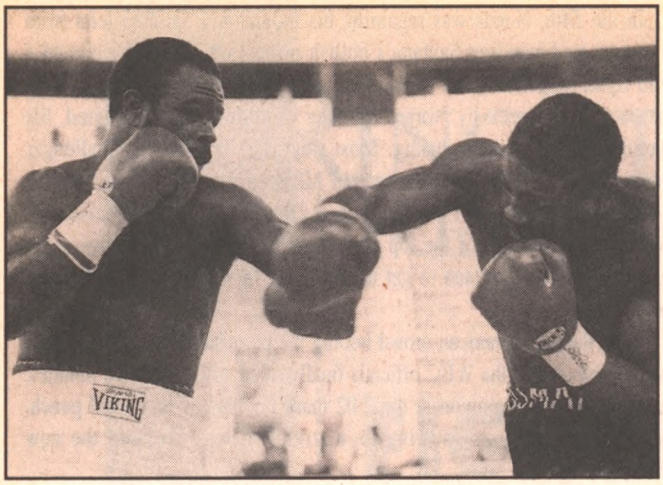


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Norris was far too strong for the undeserving Heath

Orlin Norris KO 2 James Heath

Mexico City, Mexico: It was easy to see why promoter Don King downplayed this, the fifth world title fight on his card at the Plaza de Toros, and the only one not televised. Norris-Heath, the WBA cruiserweight champion's third defense, was relegated to curtain-opener status at 4:30 p.m., more than 3½ hours before the first of the four remaining title fights. Only 5,000 fans were on hand for the first of a nine-bout card. Was someone trying to hide something?

Norris, 190, San Diego, California, deserved a breather after a pair of defenses against Arthur Williams. And he needed no deep breath to down Heath, 190, Charlotte, North Carolina, a 34-year-old with only nine pro bouts on his official record.

Norris, 42-3 (24), dropped Heath, 6-2-2 (5), with a left uppercut in the first round. In the second, he worked the body, backed the challenger to the ropes, then leveled him with an overhand right to the chin. Heath beat the count of referee Julio Cesar Alvarado (Panama), but wasn't allowed to continue. The time of the stoppage: 2:46 of the second round.

The judges were Eduardo Luna (Mexico), Marcial Vargas (Venezuela), and Marco Antonio Rodriguez (Mexico).

(11-12-94)

Bruce Williams

Genaro Hernandez W 12 Jimmy Garcia

Mexico City, Mexico: "Chicanito" Hernandez is the original nice guy. Unfortunately for him, nice guys really do finish last—even when they're winning.

On the Gonzalez-Carbajal undercard at the Plaza de Toros, Hernandez, 130, Los Angeles, easily handled mandatory challenger Garcia, 130, Barranquilla, Colombia, to retain the WBA junior lightweight title for the eighth time. He dropped Garcia with a double-left hook in the fifth round and widened his lead when Garcia was penalized a point for butting in the sixth. All his skills, however, couldn't protect Hernandez from the boos of the crowd, which seemed to hold him personally responsible for the fact that his home state had earlier in the week passed Proposition 187, denying illegal aliens certain rights. Nor could Hernandez' talent protect him from himself; once more he came away from a victory with an injured right hand.

"The Mexican crowd didn't really appreciate what I did, but I was a one-handed fighter," the 28-year-old Hernandez sighed in his dressing room. "I just wasn't able to do everything I wanted to do. He took a lot of punishment. I have to congratulate him for that. But I did okay for myself. I managed to keep in control of the fight, going inside and countering with a left uppercut."

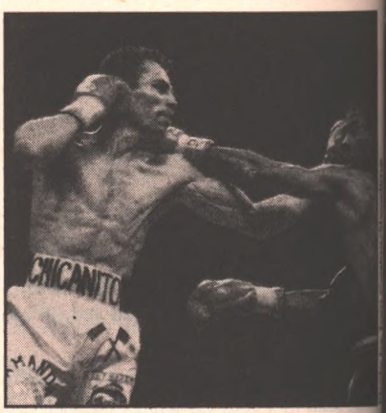
Hernandez' injury came in the fifth round, he decided, from whacking the 23-year-old Garcia once too often in the head. He used the hand sparingly thereafter; his jabs were more than enough to keep Garcia at bay and pile up points. For his part, the Colombian answered only with occasional arm punches.

The decision was unanimous, with Julio Roldan (Venezuela) scoring 120-107, Humberto Figueroa (Panama) 119-109, and Medardo Villalobos (Panama) 117-109. The referee was Roberto Ramirez (Puerto Rico).

(This was Hernandez' first fight since a victory over Jorge Ramirez in January. After that bout, he underwent his third operation on his right hand.)

It was a messy bout, with Garcia's right eye beginning to swell shut by the fourth. The challenger, 35-4 (25), was bleeding from the nose at the end of that round, and his right eye was closed by the eighth. Hernandez suffered a butt-induced cut on his left brow in the seventh.

"I got poked in the eye at the very beginning of the fight," Garcia said after his first crack at a world title, "and I wasn't able to see very much after that."



Even with one hand, Hernandez was sharper

Rumors continue to spread that Hernandez may secure a showdown with Los Angeles neighbor Oscar De La Hoya early in 1995. After his latest frustration, however, he was eager only to see a specialist and determine the damage to his hand. "I don't know what's going to happen," he said. "I want to fight De La Hoya whenever he's ready, if the hand's not too bad."

It's about time this nice guy got a *good* break for a change.

(11-12-94)

Bruce Williams

Daorung MP Petroleum Tech. Win 5 In Shik Koh

Chiengrai, Thailand: Sturdy Thai southpaw MP Petroleum (formerly Daorung Chuwatana) kept the WBA bantamweight title for the first time, edging South Korea's Koh in an abbreviated battle.

An accidental butt in the second round opened a cut over the champion's eye. After another collision of heads in the fifth, referee Ken Morita (Japan) brought the Thai to the ringside physician, who called a halt. Up to that point, MP Petroleum had been highly effective with jabs and straight lefts. He was given the verdict by unanimous decision, with Lou Tabat (USA) scoring 39-37, Larry Rozadilla (USA) 40-37, and Kazunobu Asao (Japan) 40-36.

MP Petroleum, 54-4-2 (31), will make his next defense against Texan John Michael Johnson, whom he dethroned via controversial first-round stoppage in July. Koh, a former OPBF junior bantamweight champion, fell to 12-1-1 (5).

(11-20-94)

Joe Koizumi

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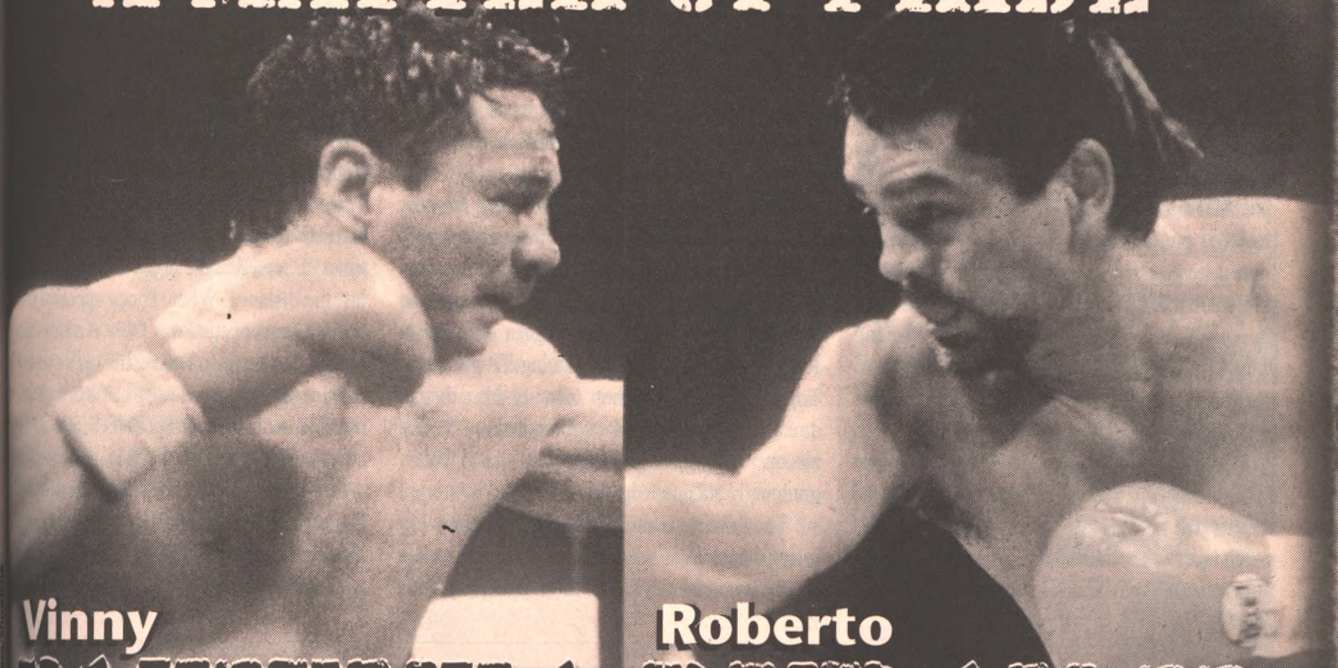

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Budweiser

Jones-Toney

(Continued from page 21)

pair of sneak hooks. Toney inched forward behind a high guard, but landed only one punch of note, a right in response to a Jones right.

The one-man show began in the second. A flurry moved Toney to the ropes, and three quick lead hooks caught the champion coming in. Jones punctuated the round with a big right, then a hook-right combination. His speed of both hand and foot was of the essence, but what was unusual was that he was outfinessing Toney without the use of a jab. In fact, from beginning to end, he employed a *hook* as his lead punch.

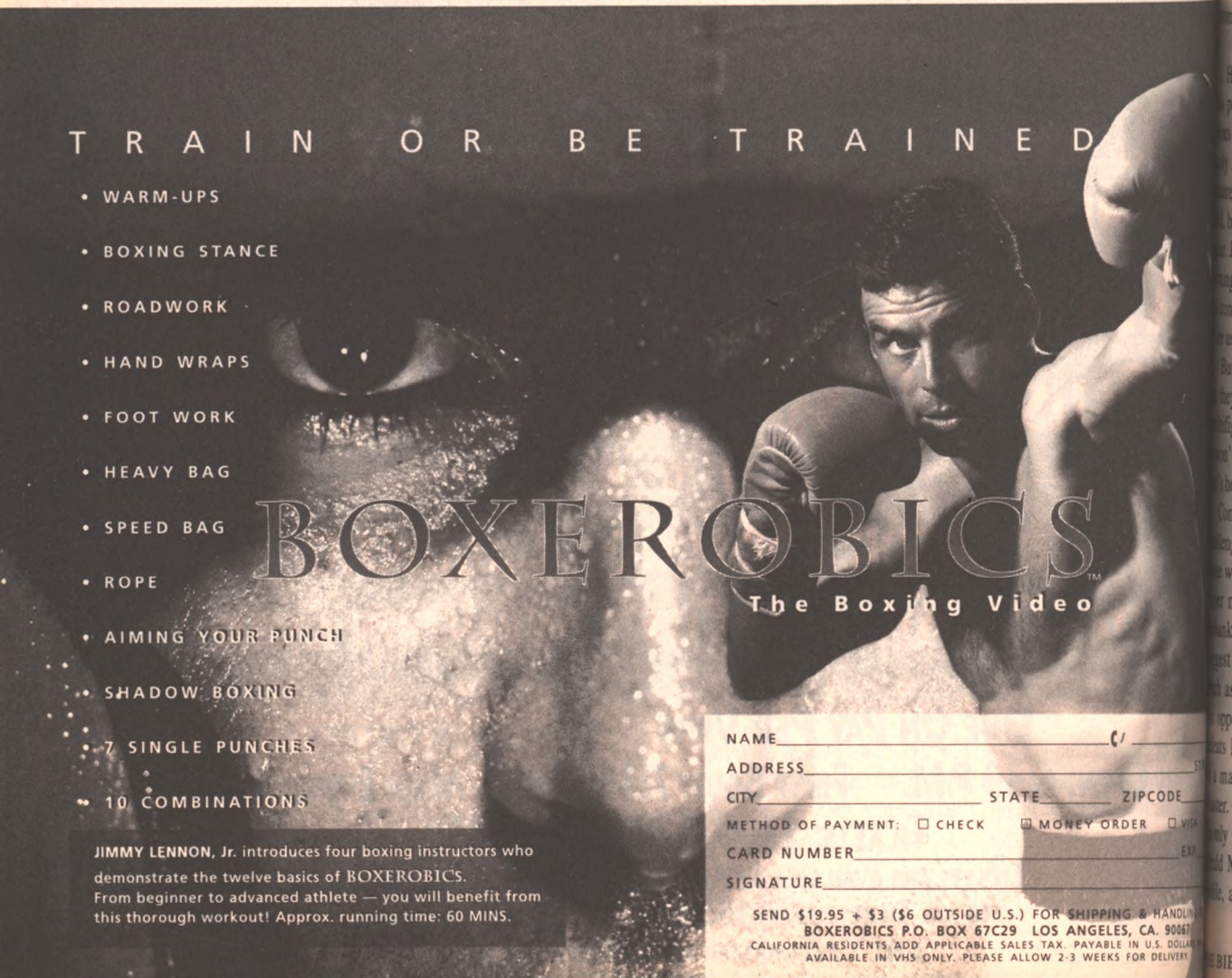
"That was by plan," he said. "Toney is known for slipping jabs and countering. That's what he uses to start his attack. I've seen that live. I don't watch tapes. They make me nervous."

The bout's only knockdown came in the third, when Toney foolishly tried to match Jones cutesy move for move. After Jones wiggled his hips, Toney leaned back, dropped his hands, and froze. As good as Jones is at creating openings, he doesn't need help. He popped Toney with a quickie hook, and as he followed through, the fighters locked lead legs. Toney stumbled backward, then fell on his butt. It was a particularly embarrassing moment, as well as a sign that, on this night, everything he tried was going to fail.

After Jones swept the first three rounds, Toney took the fourth on one of the cards, largely because he was successful in cutting off the ring. But finally presented with a stationary target, he inflicted minimal damage. Again and again, Jones would tie him up by placing his gloves on Toney's shoulders, then moving him in one direction or another and stepping away. "He tied me up pretty good; he's good at that," Toney grudgingly acknowledged.

The loser's sole highlight, as relatively insignificant as it was, came in the fifth, when Toney connected with a blind, sweeping hook after Jones had spun away from an exchange. It wasn't enough, however, to salvage the round. In the sixth, Toney continued to prove that while his attack was toothless, he was capable of matching his opponent's considerable defensive prowess. He captured the round on two cards, but at the halfway mark, trailed by five points across the board.

In the seventh, Toney's frustration began to surface. While Jones scored with lead hooks, right, a left uppercut, and inside combinations, Toney answered by wrestling and pushing his forearm into the challenger's neck. For the first time, it seemed in the eighth that Toney might not last the distance. When Toney appeared hurt by a flurry, Jones opened up. Only a couple of punches landed flush. Still, Toney, his eyes swelling and the inside of his mouth cut up, looked badly puzzled and fatigued. Seconds before the bell, Toney surprised Jones with a hook, then another. The referee Richard Steele (USA), thinking he had heard the bell, momentarily halted the action. For Toney's night of hell, it was a perfectly appropriate gesture.



Jones, 27-0 (23), danced away the ninth and 10th, yet managed to split the rounds. The crowd of approximately 7,000 exploded into a chant of "Toney! Toney!" in the 11th, and the reverberations instantly energized both fighters. Toney hooked, Jones hooked twice, then they both reloaded and hooked again. However, defense prevailed.

Jones missed with most of his punches in the 12th, but Toney could do no better than land a couple of hooks. His right, the punch Jones' camp was concerned about, had never been a factor. Both fighters raised their arms at the final bell. Only Jones, however, was hoisted into the air.

Despite the bizarre scoring in many of Las Vegas' big fights, the announcement of the unanimous decision was a mere formality. John Stewart scored 119-108, Jerry Roth 118-109, and Glen Hamada 117-110. All three judges are from the USA. THE RING scored 119-108 for Jones.

"I take my hat off to Roy Jones; he did a good job running away," said Toney, his left-handed compliment far more effective than his left-handed punches had been.

"Whoever thinks they want some," said Jones moments later, "welcome to the party."

***

His low-key celebration aside, Jones intends his party to be a marathon affair. He took six years to become an overnight sensation, yet he's only 26. And there's the gut feeling that if a future opponent pushes him harder than Toney did, he'll simply slide into a previously unseen gear. Jones seems more artist and improviser than boxing genius. In acting and reacting, he's likely to continue to create. In that sense, he'll never bore us.

But great fighters need great opponents. Or do they? HBO, which hopes to sign Jones to a multifight contract, believes the fighter is so hot, it won't matter who stands in the opposite corner. Let's hope the network is right.

Consider the possibilities: Jones' mandatory challenger is California's Tony Byrd. Even for those who care, that's a who-cares fight. British super middleweights Nigel Benn and Chris Eubank are colorful, but their recent efforts suggest they belong in the ring with Jones as much as Michael Jordan belongs in a batter's box opposite Greg Maddux. Assuming he again defeats Roberto Duran, Vinny Pazienza would be a marketable opponent—and an artistic disaster. Until Jones rises to light heavyweight, the only 168-pound bout of intrigue would be vs. Jerald McClellan. But McClellan isn't high-profile, and you have to wonder whether Don King would risk one of his best fighters in a one-shot deal. Keep in mind that in promotional terms, Jones is a free agent, and advisers Stan and Fred Levin would enroll Jones in a monastery before signing a long-term deal with King.

"Whoever we fight next," promised Stan Levin, "we'll sign for only one fight."

Without a superfight in sight, Jones' future will likely be determined by how effectively he's marketed. It's not going to be easy. Everyone may be aware of what a wonderful fighter the IBF super middleweight champion is, but how many casual fans have a sense of Jones as a personality? 1995 figures to be dominated by George Foreman, who refuses to pay a lot for those mufflers, but is smart enough to keep hawking them, and a comebacking Mike Tyson. Will there be space for Jones?

Whatever the future may bring, we can only hope that Jones' celebrity includes a lot more than just 15 minutes of fame. Overcome by the moment? Jones will embrace it every time. Here's to hoping it comes his way again and again. ■

Foreman

(Continued from page 26)

over until the fat guy sings, which he's now ready to do for the right price.

"There hasn't been a reaction like this to a fight since Ali knocked George out," Arum said. "This is huge. HUGE! Usually there are mixed opinions after a fight. Not this time. Except for Don King, there's nothing but euphoria."

Boxing people are so energized, Arum insists, they might even start thinking straight. King has already demanded the WBA enforce its rule that when someone other than the number-one contender wins the title, he must defend against the highest rated opponent available within 120 days. However, Arum says he has been given every indication that both the IBF and WBA intend to allow Foreman to do what he'd like for nine months or so.

This is not because of any sudden sense of fair play on the part of boxing's corrupt ruling bodies. Rather, it's business. Smart business. Which is what Foreman is all about.

"These guys may do some stupid things from time to time, but nobody is a fool,"

(Continued on page 72)

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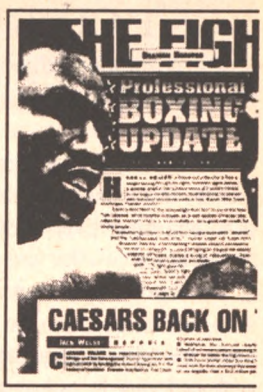

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Foreman

(Continued from page 71)

Arum explained. "Everybody in boxing realizes this is the best thing that's happened in a long time. Everybody is talking about boxing again.

"George's win has renewed interest in the sport, and the guys who run these organizations know it's to their advantage to continue this euphoric feeling for as long as possible. There is precedence for them to give George up to a year to defend against the mandatory contender [the King-promoted Tony Tucker]. They're flexible. I think they'll allow him a couple of optional defenses."

The defense Foreman said he wants to make is against Mike Tyson—if King is not involved. It's a fight Arum would like to promote next fall into what he believes would be the biggest event in boxing history. Certainly the money Foreman would be paid would be without precedent—probably more than $20-million. It's all rather remarkable, especially when you consider that after losses to Evander Holyfield and Tommy Morrison, Foreman's Hollywood scripted comeback seemed to have ended sadly but realistically.

Then, sudden as a right hand out of the night, he was back up from the ashes of his broken dream. He called Arum after Moorer won the title from Holyfield and insisted his promoter try to make the match by giving the champion all the guaranteed money to fight a 45-year-old man who hadn't boxed in 17 months.

Moorer went for it, taking $7-million to Foreman's four-wall deal that essentially gave him whatever the gate amounted to. In the end he landed about $3-million, but more important, he landed that one perfectly timed cross that changed everything—perhaps even the course of boxing history.

If "The Punching Preacher's" resurrection brought an end to a desultory period, it was not completely an unprogrammed undertaking. Unprecedented, yes. Unplanned, no.

"These things didn't happen by accident," Arum said. "George could be a Hollywood director or screenwriter. He's the one who called me out of the blue and took my bargain position away by insisting I make the fight him at any price. That cost us short-term mone Then the fight was canceled when the WB wouldn't sanction it and [promoter Dan] Du just walked away, but George insisted on go to court, and we won with about a five perc chance. All the grief we went through. Imagi how I'm feeling now. Don't think retiring hasn crossed *my* mind."

Perhaps it has, but that perfect ending f both the fighter and his promoter isn't going happen. Foreman is riding the crest of phenomenal public relations and endorsem wave, and he will ride it to the shore knowing all fighters do, that all waves ultimately crash the beach.

When *his* wave crashes, Foreman wi probably end up like all great boxers before hi wearing sunglasses at midnight to hide a batte face. But if that day comes, he'll have plenty money to buy salve.

Unless, of course, he's getting it for free wi an endorsement deal.

Ron Borges is a boxing writer a columnist for the Boston Globe.

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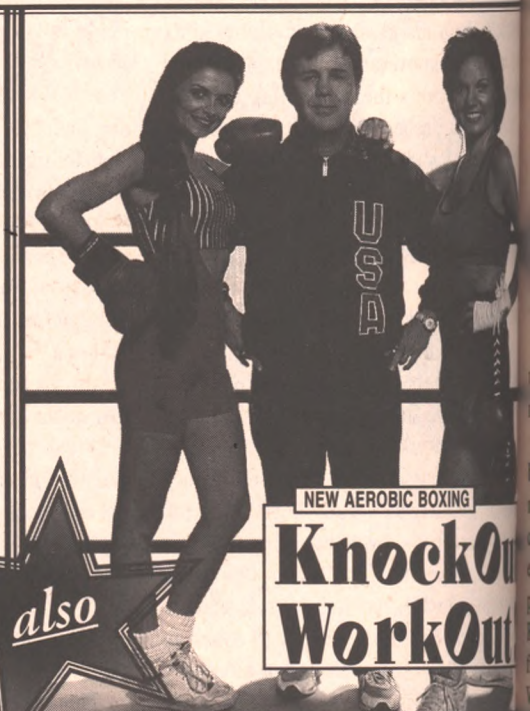

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Kaplan

(Continued from page 49)

quick assessment of a fighter.

Despite a successful career as a biologist (that, of course, included one of the world's largest private entomological collections), Kaplan's true calling was never anything but boxing. And if boxing is really the Sweet Science, he is its Newton, Einstein, and Galileo rolled into one. If there is something you need to know about pugilism, call Kaplan.

"If you want to find out about an obscure middleweight from the '30s, ask Hank," says boxing writer Ed Maloney. "Every time I've ever called him with a question on boxing, he's had the answer at his fingertips." Perhaps that's why Chris Dundee once said of Kaplan, "He's a walking encyclopedia."

While Kaplan may not have total recall, he does possess the next best thing—the world's largest private boxing archives. Taking up space the size of a big living room, with rows of cartons and file cabinets giving the appearance of a warehouse, Kaplan's archives are, shall we say, *extensive*. They contain files on every title fight in the history of modern boxing and on virtually every boxer of note (and most who weren't of note) during this time.

Just how extensive is extensive? Want to see not only the scorecards, but the trunks from the 1982 junior featherweight title fight between Sergio Palma and Leo Cruz? They're in the files. Actually that's cheating. Kaplan did promote that fight—just another of the many boxing hats he's worn. But you get the idea.

"Hank is really boxing's archivist-at-large; there's no one else in the sport who fulfills that role," says manager Don Majeski.

The secret behind such a massive body of boxing information is Kaplan's worldwide network of boxing enthusiasts. The unopened crates that fill his dining room are packed with even more artifacts, sent to Kaplan for preservation by acquaintances across the globe. He developed this unique network of fistic friends years ago through the formation of the World Boxing Historians Association, of which Kaplan was the first president.

"There used to be a number of guys like me, and we grew to find each other," he says. "The Association only lasted for about 10 years, though. We never managed to convene a meeting because we were spread out around the world, and people like us who spend so much time with our hobby don't have the money for airfare."

Kaplan may not have gotten rich from the sport, but he has reaped some minor profit from his knowledge and status. He was the editor of the now-defunct *Boxing World* and *World-Wide Boxing Digest* magazines, and has served as a consultant for *Sports Illustrated*, *The London Times*, and HBO. He has also served as an adviser to former WBC heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis, even making occasional trips to England before big fights. Of course, it's not *all* work. On his most recent British excursion, Kaplan and traveling partner Majeski took time out for some sightseeing. Buckingham Palace? The London Tower? Forget it. They took a little trip to Wales to visit the grave of former featherweight great Jim Driscoll.

"That's how Hank will spend his vacations," says Maloney. "For fun he'll go to the town Jimmy Wilde came from and try to find some of his relatives to speak with."

These outings sometimes contribute a new morsel of information that may find its way into the archives. This is crucial to Kaplan who, with several other scholarly types, formed the International Boxing Research Organization some years back. The organization is dedicated to reconstructing boxing records and making the occasional correction in the sport's official history. Because of this exacting historian's bent, Kaplan is the permanent chairman to the International Boxing Hall of Fame's selection committee. He is one of the men who nominate boxers for immortality.

"A lot of times people may not recognize all the fighters on the ballot," he says. "It's unfortunate; there are guys who won't get in because they're not so well-known. Nicolino Locche, for example, belongs in the Hall. He's the closest thing to Willie Pep, but may never get in because he never fought in the United States, so people don't know him."

Much of Kaplan's time these days is devoted to perpetuating forgotten names from the past. It's almost a holy cause for him to have people remember the likes of Holman Williams or the Cocoa Kid, brilliant fighters who never had the chance to become champions in the days when there were only eight titleholders in all boxing. Beyond the great oldies, Kaplan also tries to perpetuate the names of aging fighters who belong to the South Florida Veteran Boxers Association. Some of the former boxers are sick or down on their luck, and a brief writeup in one publication or another means a lot to men whose glory days seem long gone. Kaplan will always aid a former fighter.

A few years ago, a Pennsylvania sheriff heard about Kaplan and called him on the faint hope he could provide information on his father, a one-time boxer. Kaplan said he knew the father's career well, and then made the son's day by sharing his archival information. Such requests are frequent, and Kaplan will usually go the extra mile to help complete strangers find their boxing roots.

"In boxing, where people talk trash about everyone, no one ever says anything bad about Hank," says Maloney. "He is universally liked in the sport."

When not sharing his vast storehouse of knowledge with the world, Kaplan spends his time going through his endless files, looking to gleam some new historical tidbit. When in need of relaxation, he retires to his library for some light reading. After all, he owns the world's largest library of boxing-related books. ■

Mark Jacobs, who is based in White Plains, New York, writes frequently about boxing and martial arts.

Comebacks

(Continued from page 53)

in the junior welterweight and welterweight divisions." He singled out Julio Cesar Chavez as the main reason for his return.

"His style is made for me," Costello said. "I just know I can beat him."

Florida was the site of Costello's first comeback fight. Then he headed home to New York. After he passed all the physical exams and looked good in the gym, I licensed him. He's since fought four times in New York and won all four bouts. He still wants Chavez. All I can do is wish him luck.

Arguello, the man who sent Costello into retirement in 1986, called me in early-1994 and told me was coming back. He story was the same as Costello's: Nobody out there impressed him. He wanted to come back, and he wanted to do so in New York. I did my best to talk him out of it. I told him I'd have to watch him train, possibly on five or six different occasions. He told me he'd begin his comeback elsewhere, then move it to New York. After suffering a broken rib in training and laying off for a few months, he

(Continued on page 76)

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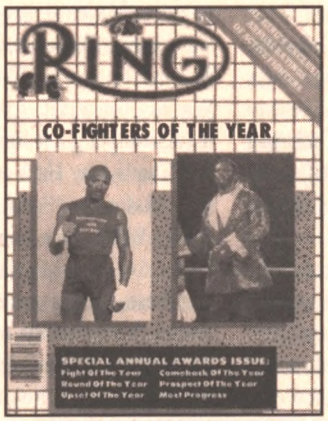

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Comebacks

(Continued from page 73)

fought in Florida. During the bout, he looked slower than ever. He suffered a cut and a broken hand. But he won. He says he'll allow the hand time to mend, then return to the ring. He'll be 43 in April. I really wish he'd hang up the gloves once more. For good.

I okayed the 40-year-old Berbick for a September 1994 New York date, but turned down the 41-year-old Spinks one month later. It turned out that both choices were correct; Berbick outpointed Melvin Foster, while Spinks headed to Washington, D.C., where he failed to make it past the first round.

In 1991, I licensed 34-year-old Sugar Ray Leonard to box Terry Norris at Madison Square Garden. It was Leonard's last fight, as Norris thoroughly outpointed him. After the bout, Leonard and I spoke in the privacy of his dressing room.

"I now know that I don't have it anymore," he told me. "I guess when you lose it, it's lost forever." In the case of boxers, that statement is particularly true.

Former heavyweight contender Jerry Quarry has never been able to let go of his unfulfilled dream of winning the heavyweight title. In 1992, at age 47, Quarry applied for a license in Nevada. The commission turned him down. In the February 1995 issue of THE RING, it was reported that Quarry is suffering from pugilistica dementia. Its symptoms include severe memory loss and frequent disorientation.

"There's no question George Foreman's comeback has inspired men who have no business fighting any longer," said Nevada's executive director, Marc Ratner. "I just wish Foreman would take time out from his busy schedule, look up, and help us deal with the flood of comebacks he's inspired."

Maybe he will, now that he's fulfilled his dream. That pulpit, that huge, worldwide pulpit, the one Big George and I spoke about in 1985, is now his. Maybe he'll use it to make boxing's over-the-hill gang see the light and use the gym as a place to stay fit and help train young fighters, rather than a launching pad to a new career.

Say hallelujah. Say amen. ■

Gonzalez

(Continued from page 58)

"During the Mexican TV broadc
Chavez said that it would be very difficult
Chiquita to fight again in Mexico Ci
pointed out Fernando Paramo, sports edito
La Opinion, America's best-selling Spa
language daily. "I don't think a match w
Lopez would help much. Fans don't want
see two Mexicans fight each other. They lik
better when a Mexican fights a foreigner."

Okay, what about Lopez-*Carbajal*?

"That would be a terrific fight," agre
Paramo. "But Carbajal has been havi
trouble making 108 pounds, and moving do
to 105 to fight Lopez is unrealistic. Lo
would have to come up. And right no
Carbajal doesn't have a title. So it's hard
say what will happen."

The fact that Carbajal and Lopez a
both in King's stable might facilitate
showdown. Another bout involvi
Gonzalez, who is under promotio
contract to Forum Boxing, and a K
fighter is less likely.

"I was not happy with Don King," s
Mendoza. "He is surrounded by lawyers a
yes-men. He also alienated a lot of Mexi
people, saying things like 'remember
Alamo.' It's poor taste, an embarrassme
When we go to the United States to fight
don't go around talking about the Mexic
American war and Geronimo. After t
show I realize Don King is the internati
clown of boxing. Jorge Paez is just
prince."

Going in, who would have thought "
Real Thing In The Bull Ring" would t
out to be so detrimental to so m
reputations? Winner Gonzalez is n
viewed as a lame duck champion in need
redemption. Loser Carbajal seems to h
learned nothing between his first and seco
pro defeats. And promoter King is maki
enemies down Mexico way, where h
recently promoted with great succe
What's going on here?

In the lucrative Latin boxing market, o
era is coming to an end and another
experiencing birth pangs. For more than
decade, Chavez has maintained a stranglehol
on the affections of Mexican and Mexica

(Continued on page

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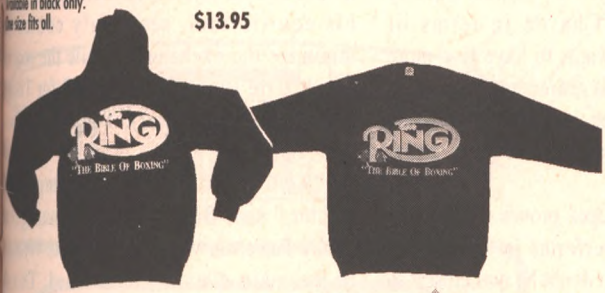

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Gonzalez

(Continued from page 76)

American fans. But since his disputed draw with Pernell Whitaker and his loss to Frankie Randall, it has been obvious that Chavez' reign is drawing to a close. Fighters and promoters alike are jockeying for position, hoping to be in the right place when "J.C. Superstar" finally retires.

For a fleeting moment, it looked as if Gonzalez might assume the mantle. However, it's now obvious the diminutive warrior is poorly cast in the part. The search for a new hero will continue as Chavez continues his slow fade. WBC lightweight champion Miguel Angel Gonzalez is a strong candidate, but Lopez, with his elegant brand of brutality, seems best suited.

"Don sees Lopez as an eventual replacement for Chavez," said King spokesman Michael Marley. "Of course, nobody will ever replace Chavez in terms of charisma. But Julio wants to have five more bouts leading up to his retirement, and Lopez will probably fight on most of those cards. Don definitely sees him as the heir-apparent."

Whether or not Lopez proves worthy will depend on how he performs in the coming months. But there's no doubt he was closest to "the real thing" in the bull ring on the night the Gonzalez-Carbajal mini-series sputtered to its dreary conclusion. ■

New Faces

(Continued from page 63)

Philadelphian, Toney displayed the type of heart and will that characterize James. In a grueling bout, both his chin and stamina were severely tested.

"Sparring with Terry and Orlin Norris has taught me how to take a shot and how to work my way into a position to deliver combinations," he said. "We work constantly on a variety of styles, and it's all business, all boxing. And that thin air of the San Diego mountains, it really helps.

"My goal in boxing is to top Carlos Monzon's record of 14 title defenses at middleweight. I've never had a career-threatening injury, and I'm poised to make a step up in competition. My only problem is lack of professional rounds. I can't get people to stay with me."

Until the Brewer fight.

Midway through the first round, it seemed Toney would enjoy another early night. A left jab to the chin floored the inconsistent Brewer, who had previously been kayoed by Ray Williams and Lonny Beasley. "When I've got a guy introuble, I can see it in his eyes," he said.

However, Brewer got up and fought a tremendous battle, one of the best ever waged at Foxwoods. By the end of the second round, Toney and Brewer, who fought as super middleweights, were trading toe to toe. And in the fourth, Brewer, winging overhand rights with abandon, staggered his rival.

The pace slowed in the second half of the bout, with Brewer boxing effectively and Toney, who suffered a cut inside his mouth and an injured eardrum that affected his equilibrium, seemingly content to minimize the exchanges. While the scoring was bizarre (two totals of 97-92 for Toney and 95-94 for Brewer), Toney's win was deserved.

"Rodney Toney is a very impressive fighter," said Bill Cayton, the manager of Vinny Pazienza, who topped Rafael Williams in the main event. "Determined. Throws punches in combination. Good movement. And he withstood punches well. I think he's on his way to being a very good fighter. Of course, he's got a long way to go to be like his namesake."

***

Toney grew up in the Hyde Park and Georgetown sections of Boston. His father, Harold "Honey" Combs, fought professionally as a middleweight in Ohio. Toney learned to box at the Boston YMCA under the tutelage of his father, as well as Wilbur "Bill" Cone, who, according to Toney, "took the time to teach and treat each kid like an individual."

Toney compiled an amateur record of 40-5, winning the New England and middleweight title five times. He fought and sparred with several of the area's top boxers, including Dana Rosenblatt, Lloyd Diggs, and Ray Oliveira. But he was always conscious of expanding his horizons

(Continued on page

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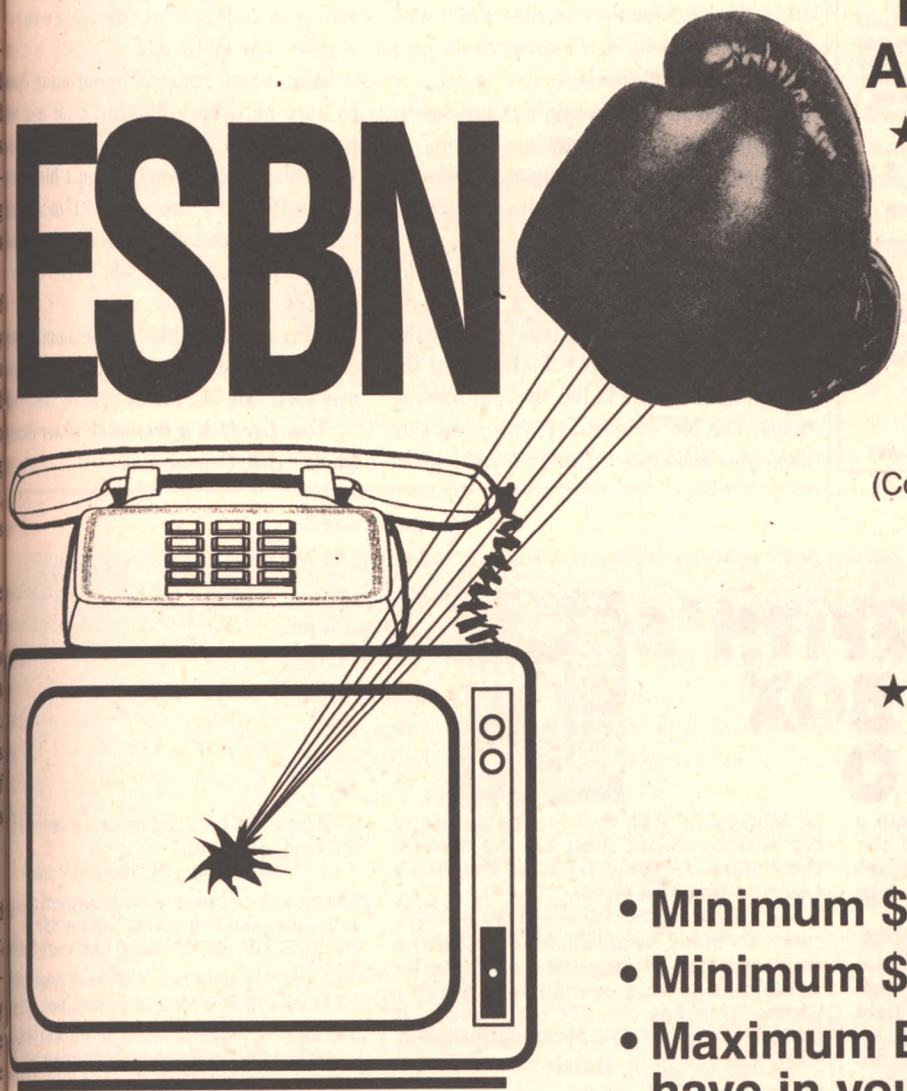

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New Faces

(Continued from page 78)

zons, and when the opportunity came to escape the urban clatter and frigid New England winters, he packed his bags. A friend had told Toney of tryouts at Sayatovich's camp, which is 60 miles east of San Diego. He auditioned and was accepted. He turned pro in June 1992, with all of his paid bouts coming while he's been based in California.

"I don't like being away from my family, but I'm in California to get a job done," he explained. "I'm in the mountains, with the rattlesnakes and the clean air. I'm here to work."

"He's got a good chin, good stamina, a lot of power," said Toney's trainer, Rudy Elias. "Physically, he's a lot stronger than the average middleweight. The altitude at the camp (4,000 feet) and the strength-training helps. The old trainers say lifting weights diminishes hand speed. That's a myth. Look at Terry Norris. He bench-presses 350 Can you say he has no hand speed? same with Rodney."

While the Brewer fight provided with some much-needed exposure, do for him to challenge for the worl anytime soon. He's listed 16th by the middleweight and remains unranked IBF, WBA, and THE RING.

"We are not interested in shoving up in the ratings," said Sayatovich. "R don't make world champions. All they give guys shots at titles. We don't want at it, we want to *win* it."

And when Toney's opportunity c be sure he'll be both confident and prepared. "I chose boxing becau something goes wrong, I can't blame anybody else," he said. "I'm a b puncher who can slug with the slugger box with the boxers. My style offe excuses."

Almost sounds like cousin James ta doesn't it? And if Rodney keeps improv may soon look like James fighting, too.

Tom Deedy is a freelance writer ba Quaker Hill, Connecticut.

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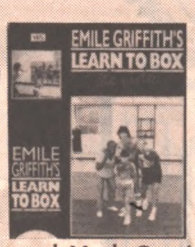

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BOXING COLLECTOR'S NOTEBOOK

By Don Scott

So the big guy is heavyweight champion again, huh? Collectors, like a lot of boxing fans, couldn't be happier for him—and for boxing. Maybe it's his never-take-this-too-seriously attitude. After all, he did say that had Moorer gotten up, he would've "belly-bumped him" next time. You gotta love him.

Collectors recognize the value of Foreman material—and that it's just become a lot more popular. There are two Foreman eras, of course, and, predictably, the old stuff is much harder to find.

The most common item that can be found from Foreman's first career is a closed-circuit TV program from his legendary fight with Muhammad Ali in Zaire. There are literally thousands of them, and they go for $30 or less. The most sought-after Foreman program is the on-site publication from Zaire. This could sell for $700 or more. Be careful: There were reprints made specifically to defraud collectors. The programs from the Foreman-Frazier fights and Foreman-Young are hard to find and fetch about $100 each.

Early posters are somewhat hard to find. There are a couple of paper posters that were included in press kits. Don't let anyone tell you these are "worth thousands," as I have heard some fans say. There are, for instance, two large posters from the closed-circuit showing of "The Rumble In The Jungle." One is yellow, with Ali and Foreman pictured before an outline of Africa. The other is a LeRoy Neiman poster. Neither should fetch more than $300. There was also a poster with Zaire's President Mobutuu on it. I have seen one copy. That poster might bring $2,000 or more.

Interesting early Foreman items are the two posters produced in the '70s to promote the Job Corps. Both show a very young "George Foreman, The Fighting Corpsman." Foreman credits the Job training program with saving his life, as it has many others before and since. The Shreveport Job Corps Center, incidentally, made Big George a robe for one of his comeback fights. He wore it proudly, and it now hangs in a display case at the Shreveport Center. Wonder what that robe's worth …

Equipment from Foreman's career is hard to find, so I won't venture a guess on price. I have, however, known of his draft card being sold as a collectible. As for his autograph, Foreman is most accommodating, and I know of no "secretarial signatures."

Many Foreman programs and posters from his second career are much easier to find and are available in the $10-30 range. Foreman returned to the ring at a time when such items are often produced for big fights in mass quantities for postfight sale to collectors through the secondary market. However, early in Foreman's comeback, when he was still a longshot to last more than a few fights, there were few programs or posters. Right now there's little market for them. But someday they'll be highly sought after. As for those large, attractive tickets from the casino fights, if full they'll sell for $100 or more.

So if you like Big George—and who doesn't?—there's a lot to buy and display. It is not uncommon for memorabilia to be on sale in publications like *Boxing Collectors' News* weeks before a fight. Sometimes you can even buy the program and poster, then watch the fight in your living room. So go pick up a Foreman-Moorer T-shirt (yes, these can be found, too). And make sure not to drip any hamburger juice on it. ■

Don Scott is editor and publisher of ***Boxing Collector's News*** *and may be contacted through* THE RING.

WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by THE RING are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were compiled as of September, while the WBC and IBF ratings were compiled as of November.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oliver McCall (USA)	C	–	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	–	C	3
George Foreman (USA)	–	–	C
Tony Tucker (USA)	1	1	1
Lennox Lewis (GB)	2	6	5
Lionel Butler (USA)	3	12	–
Joe Hipp (USA)	4	5	4
Larry Donald (USA)	5	11	11
Jorge Luis Gonzalez (CUBA)	6	9	12
Bruce Seldon (USA)	7	2	2
Henry Akinwande (GB)	8	7	10
Larry Holmes (USA)	9	–	–
Frank Bruno (GB)	10	–	–
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	23	3	–
Frans Botha (SA)	14	4	8
Riddick Bowe (USA)	–	8	6
Nate Tubbs (USA)	27	10	–
Buster Mathis (USA)	20	–	7
Corrie Sanders (SA)	16	–	9

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	–	–
Orlin Norris (USA)	–	C	–
Alfred Cole (USA)	–	–	C
Norbert Ekassi (CAM)	1	6	5
Carl Thompson (GB)	2	9	6
Adolpho Washington (USA)	3	12	–
Sergei Kobozev (RUS)	4	7	2
Kenny Keene (USA)	5	2	–
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	6	–	–
Jade Scott (USA)	7	–	–
David Izegwire (NIG)	8	4	–
Robert Daniels (USA)	9	–	8
Akim Tafer (FRA)	10	11	7
Thomas Hearns (USA)	–	1	4
Marcelo Figueroa (ARG)	16	3	–
Ralf Rocchigiani (GER)	–	5	–
Nate Miller (USA)	14	8	3
Richard Mason (USA)	28	10	11
Uriah Grant (USA)	–	–	1
Saul Montana (MEX)	–	–	9
Andre Purlet (GUY)	–	–	10

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Mike McCallum (USA)	C	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	1	2	7
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	2	–	3
Egerton Marcus (CAN)	3	6	1
Randall Yonker (USA)	4	11	–
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	5	5	9
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	6	3	–
Frank Tate (USA)	7	4	–
Rudy Nix (USA)	8	–	5
Gary Delaney (GB)	9	–	–
Montell Griffin (USA)	10	–	12
Wang Sup Lee (KOR)	–	1	–
Brent Kosolofski (CAN)	–	7	–
Drake Thadzi (CAN)	–	8	–
Ernie Magdaleno (USA)	18	9	10
Audrey Nelson (USA)	–	10	–
Duran Williams (USA)	–	12	2
John Scully (USA)	21	–	4
Charles Williams (USA)	12	–	6
Greg Everett (USA)	–	–	8

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nigel Benn (GB)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
James Toney (USA)	–	–	C
Frederic Seiller (FRA)	1	9	7
Michael Nunn (USA)	2	8	3
Tony Byrd (USA)	3	1	1
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	4	5	–
Graziano Rocchigiani (GER)	5	10	–
Steve Little (USA)	6	3	9
Thulane Malinga (SA)	7	–	–
Cornelius Carr (GB)	8	–	–
Tim Littles (USA)	9	2	6
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	10	–	–
Byun Gin Kang (KOR)	–	4	–
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	20	6	–
Henry Wharton (GB)	–	7	4
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	2
Lonnie Bradley (USA)	–	–	5
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	22	–	8
Tony Thornton (USA)	–	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gerald McClellan (USA)	C	–	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	1	9	6
Julian Jackson (VI)	2	10	5
Silvio Branco (ITA)	3	–	–
Quincy Taylor (USA)	4	7	7
Lonnie Bradley (USA)	5	–	–
Joe Lipsey (USA)	6	8	4
Richie Woodhall (GB)	7	–	–
Reggie Johnson (USA)	8	1	1
Neville Brown (GB)	9	–	10
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	10	5	–
John David Jackson (USA)	–	2	3
Peter Venancio (BRA)	–	3	–
Segundo Mercado (ECU)	–	4	2
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	6	1
Miguel Viloria (COL)	–	–	9

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	–	–
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	–	C	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	C
Julio Cesar Green (USA)	1	3	1
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	2	1	8
Simon Brown (USA)	3	7	10
Bronco McKart (USA)	4	–	–
Carl Daniels (USA)	5	2	–
Darrin Morris (USA)	6	11	9
Robert McCracken (GB)	7	–	6
Paul Vaden (USA)	8	–	3
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	9	12	–
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	10	–	–
Winky Wright (USA)	15	4	–
Tony Marshall (USA)	–	5	–
Bernard Razzano (FRA)	–	6	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	–	8	–
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	17	9	5
Lloyd Honeyghan (GB)	14	10	–
Keith Holmes (USA)	–	–	4
Raul Marquez (USA)	25	–	5
Rossman Henry (COL)	–	–	7

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Gary Jacobs (GB)	1	5	5
Larry Barnes (USA)	2	–	1
Andrew Murray (GUY)	3	1	3
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	4	–	4
David Gonzalez (USA)	5	12	7
Buddy McGirt (USA)	6	–	8
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	7	2	–
Lonnie Smith (USA)	8	–	–
Luis Santana (USA)	9	–	–
Derrell Coley (USA)	10	–	10
Jung Oh Park (KOR)	15	3	–
Oba Carr (USA)	–	4	2
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	–	6	4
Freddy Ladd (USA)	–	7	–
Roger Turner (USA)	29	8	6
Alberto Cortes (ARG)	–	9	–
Sean Sullivan (NZ)	–	10	–

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	–	–
Frankie Randall (USA)	–	C	–
Jake Rodriguez (USA)	–	–	C
David Kamau (USA)	1	7	1
Tony Lopez (USA)	2	–	–
Jan Bergman (SA)	3	6	8
Ross Hale (GB)	4	12	–
Hugo Pineda (COL)	5	4	4
Juan Martin Coggi (ARG)	6	3	–
Giovanni Parisi (ITA)	7	–	3

ctor Lopez (MEX)	8	–	–
ryll Tyson (USA)	9	–	7
drick Taylor (USA)	10	–	–
fid Rahilou (FRA)	11	1	–
t Bo Jacobsen (DEN)	12	2	–
n Park (KOR)	23	5	–
orge Scott (USA)	–	8	–
ery Kayumba (FRA)	21	9	–
ristian Merle (FRA)	30	10	–
oya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	–	–	1
dney Moore (USA)	26	–	2
lo Padilla (COL)	–	–	3
lo Sanchez (DR)	–	–	6
o Oliveira (USA)	15	–	9
ddie Ladd (USA)	–	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
guel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	–
arov Olzubek (JAP)	–	C	–
el Ruelas (USA)	–	–	C
guel Julio (COL)	1	9	1
n Baptist Mendy (FRA)	2	–	–
vander Johnson (USA)	3	8	9
non Marchena (MEX)	4	–	6
ardo Silva (ARG)	5	–	–
ry Jakubowski (USA)	6	–	12
las Cervera (COL)	7	–	–
ie Mosley (USA)	8	–	–
n Avila (USA)	9	–	–
ie Johnston (USA)	10	–	–
y Gamache (USA)	–	1	–
y Lopez (USA)	–	2	3
f Griffith (USA)	–	3	–
an Tejeda (ARG)	–	4	–
rianus Taroreh (INDO)	25	5	–
o Canoy (PHIL)	–	6	–
ardo Molina (COL)	–	7	11
ryuki Sakamoto (JAP)	–	10	–
ly Schwer (GB)	–	12	2
ando Marimon (COL)	–	–	4
n Lark (USA)	–	–	5
rgaan Thobela (SA)	14	–	7
on Palacios (COL)	–	–	8
n Robinson (USA)	20	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
briel Ruelas (USA)	C	–	–
aro Hernandez (USA)	–	C	–
o-John Molina (PR)	–	–	C
mah Nelson (GHA)	1	–	9
toly Alexandrov (RUS)	2	–	–
Hopson (USA)	3	4	3
y Pep (CAN)	4	–	–
ie James Leija (USA)	5	5	8
el Liberatore (USA)	6	12	5
tor Hugo Paz (ARG)	7	2	–
bin Yoma (FRA)	8	–	–
n Montantesz (USA)	9	–	–
ick Johnson (TRIN)	10	–	–
my Garcia (COL)	–	1	–
g Soo Choi (KOR)	18	3	–
ros Guevara (VEN)	–	6	–
on Rodriguez (DR)	–	7	1
in Grove (USA)	11	8	7
ar Murphy (USA)	–	9	–
n Juuko (UGA)	28	10	–
es Pedroza (COL)	–	–	2
no Gatti (USA)	12	–	4
lip Holiday (SA)	–	–	6
rold Warren (USA)	16	–	10

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
vin Kelley (USA)	C	–	–
y Rojas (VEN)	–	C	–
n Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
ejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	1	–	7
ar Soto (MEX)	2	–	–
ie Beleno (COL)	3	5	1
tor Lizarraga (USA)	4	–	10
ie Badillo (PR)	5	10	6
uel Medina (MEX)	6	–	12
y Green (USA)	7	–	2
g Kyun Park (KOR)	8	2	–
id Labdouni (FRA)	9	–	–
s Saguid (PHIL)	10	–	–
o Mendoza (COL)	–	1	–
el Arrozal (PHIL)	11	3	3
oshi Harada (JAP)	13	4	–
ido Soto (PAN)	21	6	8

Fernando Rodriguez (USA)	–	7	–
Francisco Segura (USA)	19	8	4
Sean Murphy (USA)	–	9	–
Victor Polo (COL)	–	–	5
Benny Amparo (USA)	–	–	9

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	C	–	–
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	–	C	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	C
Julio Gervacio (DR)	1	–	5
Tracy Patterson (USA)	2	–	–
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	3	–	–
Frank Toledo (USA)	4	–	12
Jesus Salud (USA)	5	8	6
Reynaldo Hurtado (COL)	6	–	7
Eddie Croft (USA)	7	–	–
Sergio Liendo (ARG)	8	–	–
Welcome Ncita (SA)	9	–	3
Juan Polo Perez (COL)	10	11	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	1	–
Arnulfo Romero (PAN)	26	2	–
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	18	3	–
Hiroaki Yokota (JAP)	15	4	–
Junior Jones (USA)	–	5	–
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	16	6	–
Nestor Farias (ARG)	–	7	–
Hee Yun Kwon (KOR)	–	9	–
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	–	10	–
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	1
Pablo Ozuna (COL)	–	–	2
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	13	–	4
Maui Diaz (USA)	19	–	8
Felix Camacho (PR)	–	–	9
Sakda Sawpungdee (THAI)	–	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yasuei Yakushiji (JAP)	C	–	–
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	–	C	–
Orlando Canizales (USA)	–	–	C
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	1	–	6
Nana Konadu (GHA)	2	5	–
Marco Antonio Barrera (MEX)	3	–	–
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	4	–	–
Naseem Hamed (GB)	5	7	–
Roberto Moran (ARG)	6	–	–
Jung Il Byun (KOR)	7	–	–
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	8	–	–
Dong Choon Lee (KOR)	9	–	–
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	10	–	–
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	–	1	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	–	2	–
Eliecer Julio (COL)	15	3	10
Abraham Torres (VEN)	22	4	9
John Michael Johnson (USA)	13	6	–
Harold Mestre (COL)	11	8	2
In Shik Koh (KOR)	–	9	–
Winsut Chuvatana (THAI)	–	10	–
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	1
Lauren Ramirez (SPA)	–	–	3
Sergio Reyes (USA)	20	–	4
Mbuelo Botile (SA)	30	–	5
Ricardo Vargas (MEX)	27	–	7
John Armour (GB)	12	–	8

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	C	–	–
Hyung Chul Lee (KOR)	–	C	–
Harold Grey (COL)	–	–	C
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	1	10	–
Cecilio Espino (MEX)	2	–	–
Danny Romero (USA)	3	–	–
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	4	–	3
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	5	4	–
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	6	–	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	7	–	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	8	–	–
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	9	7	–
Luis Bolano (COL)	10	–	–
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	–	1	–
Julio Gamboa Blanco (NIC)	17	2	–
Ernie Cataluna (PHIL)	–	3	–
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	–	5	–
David Griman (VEN)	–	6	–
Alimi Goitia (VEN)	23	8	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	11	9	10
Julio Borboa (MEX)	–	–	1
Marco Antonio Barrera (MEX)	–	–	2
Jaji Sibali (SA)	–	–	4

Rolando Bohol (PHIL)	24	–	5
Jose Diaz (USA)	–	–	6
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	29	–	7
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	–	–	8
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	9

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
San Sor Ploenchit (THAI)	–	C	–
Phichit Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	–	C
Chatchai Elite-Gym (THAI)	1	9	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	2	–	4
Danny Nunez (DR)	3	8	–
Oscar Arciniega (MEX)	4	–	–
Hugo Soto (ARG)	5	–	–
Miguel Martinez (MEX)	6	–	8
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	7	–	–
Raul Rios (MEX)	8	–	–
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	9	–	–
Chokchai 3-K Battery (THAI)	10	5	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	22	1	–
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	–	2	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	20	3	–
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	21	4	–
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	–	6	1
Luigi Camputaro (ITA)	15	7	–
Tomonori Tamura (JAP)	–	10	–
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	–	–	2
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	18	–	3
Danny Romero (USA)	–	–	5
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	–	–	6
Robbie Regan (GB)	12	–	7
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	–	–	9
Arthur Johnson (USA)	–	–	10

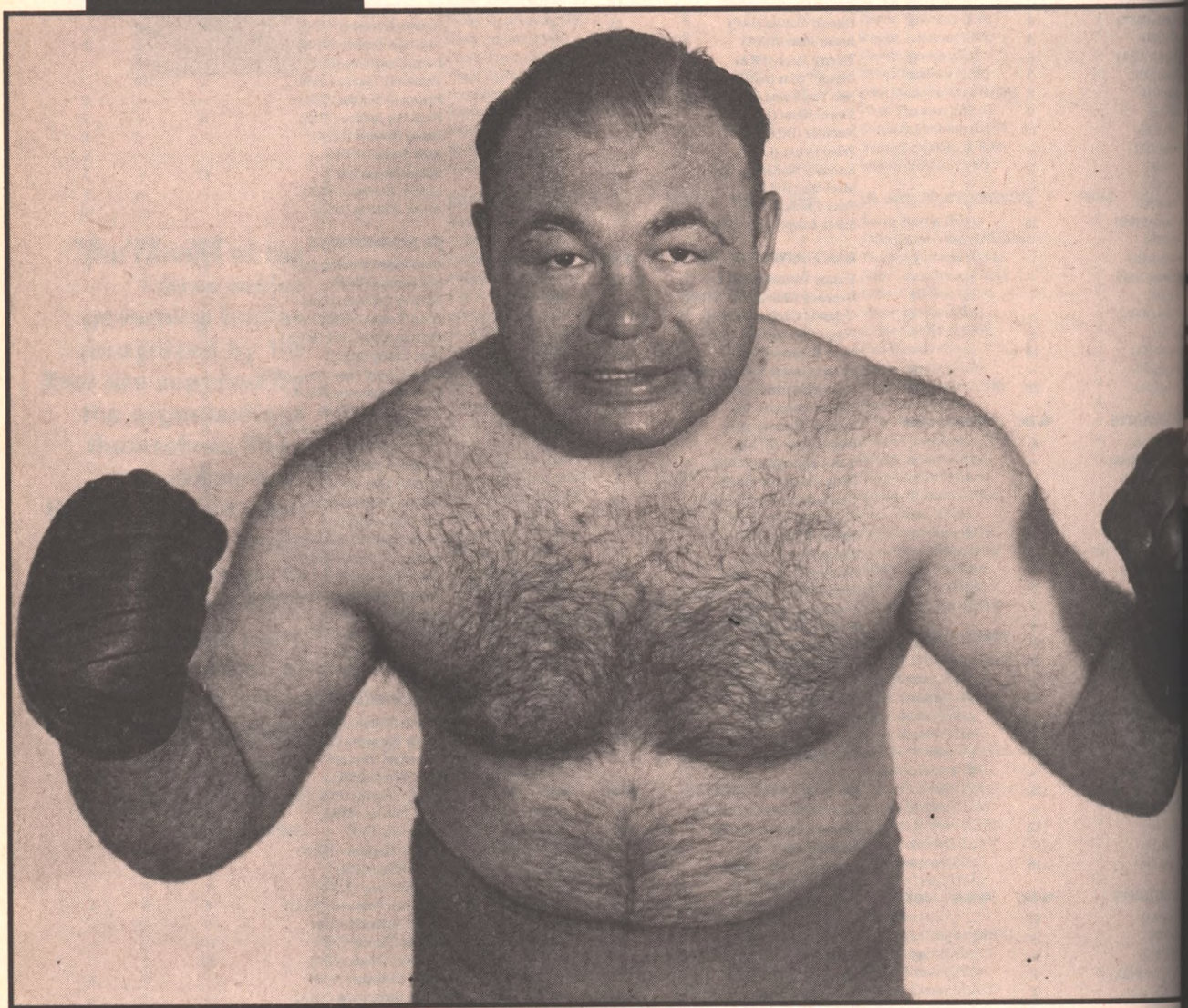
JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	C
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	C	–
Michael Carbajal (USA)	1	–	3
Javier Varguez (MEX)	2	–	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	3	–	4
Jesus Chong (MEX)	4	8	10
Miguel Angel Granados (MEX)	5	–	–
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	6	–	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	7	3	–
Manuel de Jesus Herrera (DR)	8	–	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	9	9	–
Tomonori Tamura (JAP)	10	–	7
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	19	1	–
Virgilio Chifundo (PAN)	27	2	–
Eric Griffin (USA)	11	4	2
Fahlan Sakkirin (THAI)	–	5	–
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	–	6	–
Yuichi Hosono (JAP)	13	7	6
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	10	–
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	–	–	1
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	–	–	5
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	23	–	8
Rosando Alvarez (NIG)	–	–	9

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	C
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	1	4	–
Kermin Guardia (COL)	2	6	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	3	–	–
Rocky Lin (JAP)	4	–	–
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	5	–	–
Jin Ho Kim (KOR)	6	1	–
Seo Kjin Yang (KOR)	7	7	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	8	8	–
Yamil Caraballo (COL)	9	12	–
Shinichi Tamaki (JAP)	10	11	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	20	2	–
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	–	3	6
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	–	5	–
Manuel Herrera (DR)	–	9	–
Keum Yung Kang (KOR)	–	10	–
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	–	–	1
Jerry Pahayahay (PHIL)	27	–	2
Oscar Flores (COL)	–	–	3
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	–	4
Ernesto Rubillar (PHIL)	–	–	5
Roger Espanola (PHIL)	22	–	7
Rafael Torres (USA)	–	–	8
Dominggus (INDO)	–	–	9
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	–	10

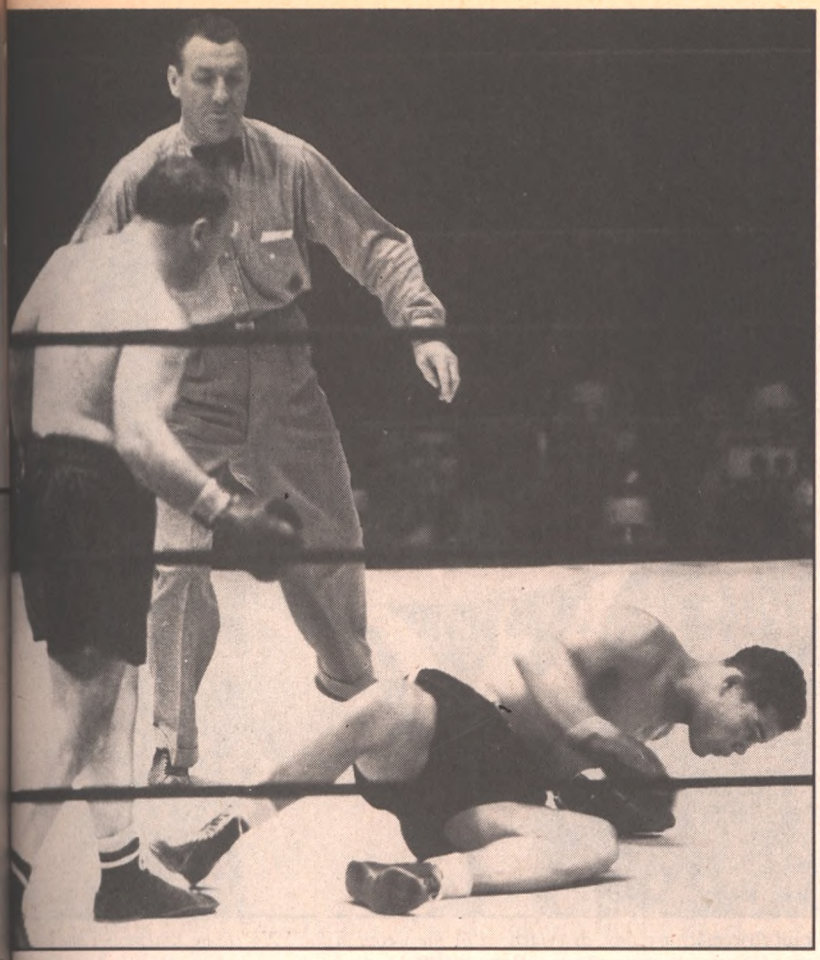
CLASSIC

From THE RING, January 1961

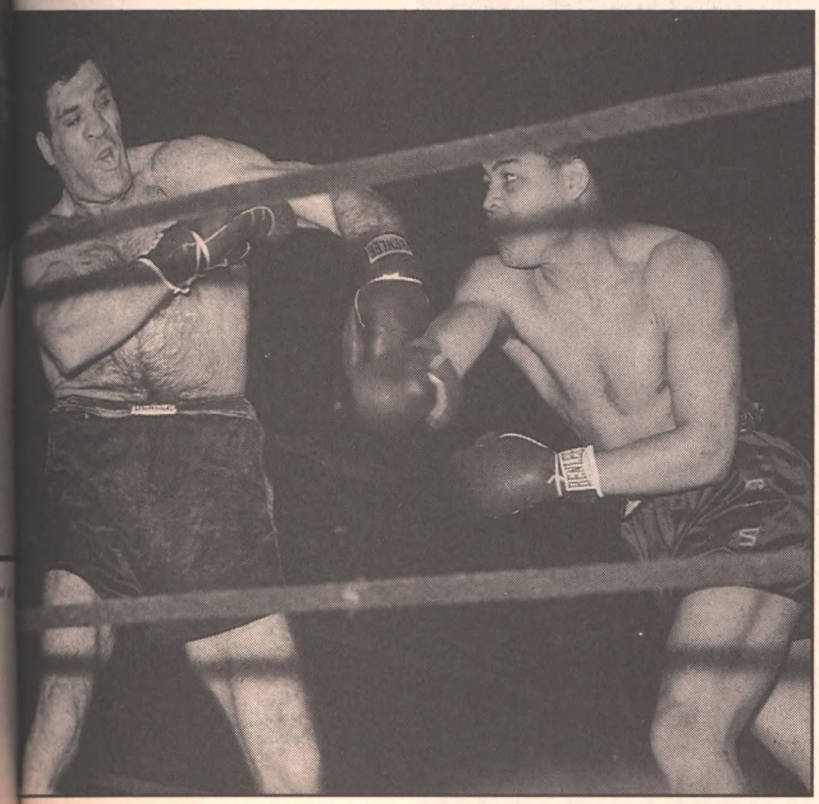
ALL SHAPES AND SIZES



"Two-Ton" Tony Galento wasn't the body-beautiful type; he trained on beer and pretzels. But he thr helluva left hook and contended for the heavyweight title in the late-1930s.



e Louis was troubled by round fighters like Tony Galento, who dropped the heavyweight champion the third round of their June 1939 title fight (above), and tall fighters like Abe Simon, who, in March 41, lasted 13 rounds in his first shot at "The Brown Bomber's" title (below).



By Al Buck

The lean, fat, and tall, even the small boxers, come in all shapes and all sizes. Some are champions, many are not. But there is no set physical standard. The inspiration for these thoughts was, oddly enough, an automobile accident in Baltimore involving a fat man and his tiny companion.

The fat man was Tony Galento, one-time challenger for the world heavyweight championship. With him was short, slender Willie Pep, former world featherweight champion. Fortunately, their injuries were not serious, and if anything, the crack-up only called attention to Galento's pending tour of Australia.

"Two-Ton Tony" has now turned wrestler, but there was a time when his left hook was feared and was dubbed "The Newark Night Stick." He is and always was a fat man, a saloon-keeper who looked the part. Loud-mouthed and with a fondness for beer and a big punch—that's what he had to sell, and he almost made it.

It will be 21 years come June that Galento, weighing 233¾ pounds, climbed into the ring with Joe Louis. To the amazement of the crowd, Tony went into a crouch. Suddenly, he leaped in with a left hook and shook Louis. In the second round, Bomber Joe was on target and Galento went down. The fans roared, anticipating the end, but Two-Ton found safety in his crouch.

The third round is the one Galento remembers. Again he fired the left hook, and this time Louis crashed to the canvas. What Tony likes to forget is that Louis got up.

The fourth round was a slaughter that ended only when referee Arthur Donovan stepped in and caught the sagging Galento.

In contrast to Galento, Pep was a master boxer blessed with lightning speed. In his early years, when he was known as "Willie The Wisp," Pep ran up a string of 62 straight victories. No doubt his greatest fight was his second with Sandy Saddler, when he regained the featherweight crown. Pep's career spanned 20 years.

The recent Pone Kingpetch-Pascual Perez series, involving the world flyweight title, demonstrated the tape is of little value in measuring fistic talent. Kingpetch, Thailand's first champion, is 5'7½" and weighs 110 pounds.

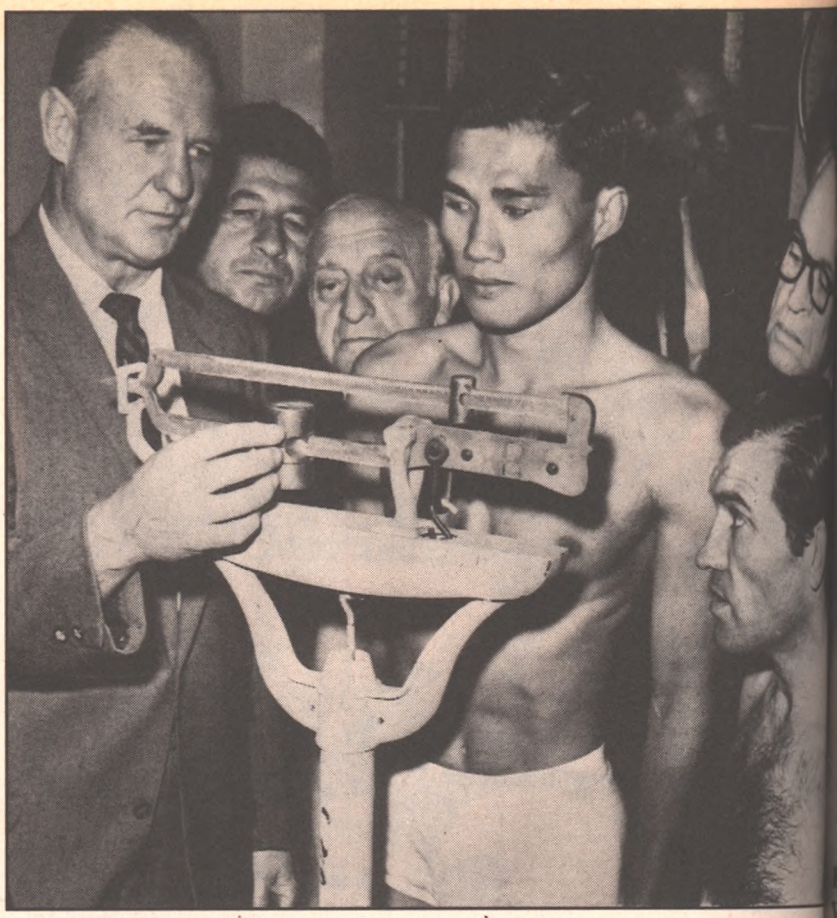
Perez, the former champion, is short, standing no more than 5', but blessed with wide shoulders and powerful arms. Kingpetch was the victor in his two bouts with the Argentine, but over the years Perez must be regarded as outstanding among flyweight champions. He had the big punch.

The ring has known many freaks. The greatest of all, viewed from any angle, was Bob Fitzsimmons. Standing 5'11½", "Ruby Robert" had the shoulders of a heavyweight. He had long, dangling arms. but his slim legs were those of a lightweight. He weighed 167 when he knocked out James J. Corbett to win the world heavyweight title.

On one occasion, Fitz gave away 140 pounds to Ed Dunkhorst and knocked him out in two rounds. Fitzsimmons won three titles—middleweight, heavyweight, and light heavyweight, in that order. This is a feat matched only by Henry Armstrong, who held the featherweight, lightweight, and welterweight championships all at one time, the only one to have three simultaneously. Armstrong was a freak in that he was never much more than a featherweight.

One of the strangest periods the ancient art has known passed into history as the White Hope era. In this age of integration and civil rights, the younger fans, whose interest dates from the early TV fights, must wonder how such a situation could have developed or been allowed to develop. The explanation is that times have changed since Jack Johnson, one of the greatest, sat upon the heavyweight throne.

James J. Jeffries came out of retirement to fight Johnson in an effort to regain "supremacy of the white race." When he fa the hunt was on. Any truck driver weighing or more pounds, and a Caucasian, was eligi All kinds of freaks were produced as promo and managers tried to find someone capable defeating the Galveston Black.

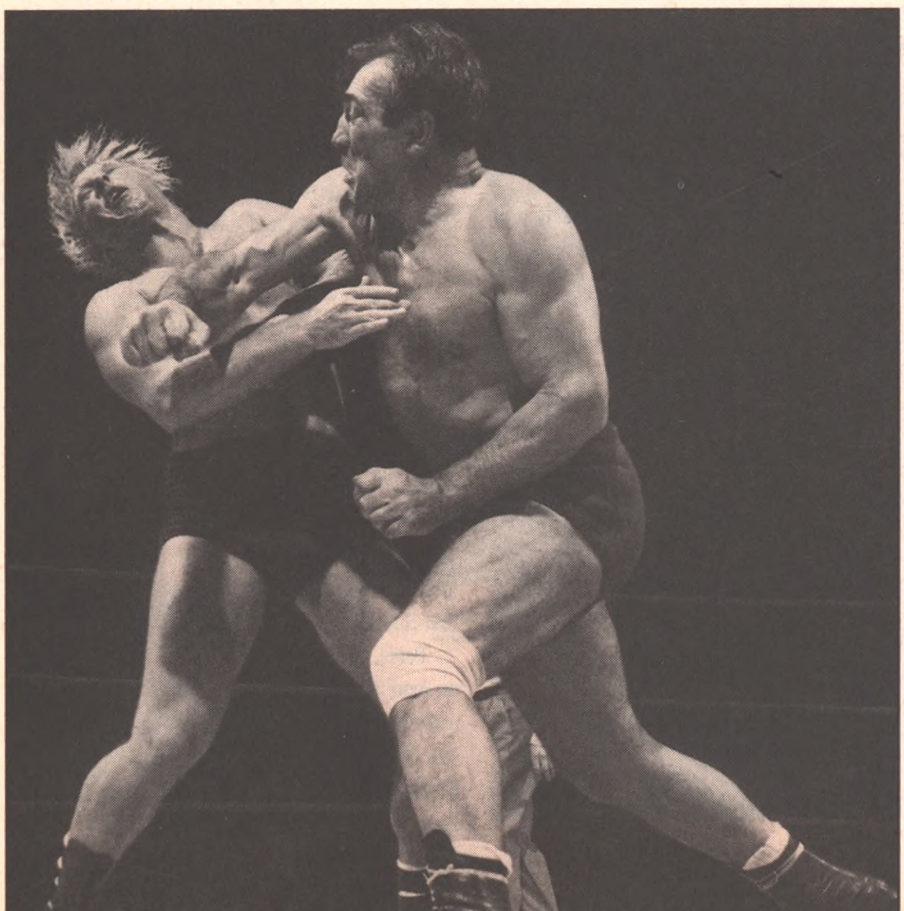


Not all flyweights are tiny, as evidenced by the weigh-in for 5'7½" Pone Kingpetch's title defe against 5' former champion Pascual Perez in 1960.

Al Reich, later a referee on the staff of New York commission, was one. Reich everything—including a glass chin.

Jim Coffey, who got off the front end trolley car to become the hero of the New Irish, was another. His fame was bested by Moran, whose powerful right was known "Mary Ann." Frank was one of the best. So Gunboat Smith and Arthur Pelkey.

Moran went to Paris, only to be defeate 20 rounds by Johnson. Perhaps the best White Hopes was the ill-fated Luther McC who died after being knocked out in a roun



Primo Carnera was among the biggest he weight champions in history. Unfortunately proved more dangerous when wrestling.

key in Calgary, Canada.

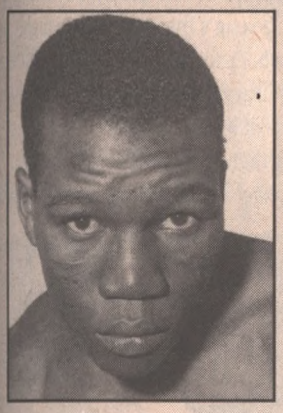
While Johnson was in exile, Gunboat Smith claimed the white heavyweight championship on the strength of having outpointed Pelkey in 15 rounds at San Francisco. Then Georges Carpentier, future light heavyweight champion, got into the act by defeating Smith on a foul in London.

Eventually, the White Hope era produced Jess Willard. He was to succeed where others had failed by knocking out Jack Johnson in 26 rounds in Havana. This put a period to the silly White Hope era.

Willard was born in Pottawatomie County, Kansas. He was a big man, 6'6¼" and weighing 252 pounds. Of course he was known as "The Pottawatomie Giant." For all his bulk, Jess was not one of the great champions. In defense of the title, he struggled through 10 rounds with Moran to win a newspaper decision. Then came the disaster at Toledo.

Jack Dempsey, a trim 187 pounds, knocked

THE RING RATINGS, *January 1961*



Benny Paret

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Floyd Patterson, Rockville Centre, NY

1. **Sonny Liston**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Ingemar Johansson**, Sweden
3. **Eddie Machen**, Portland, OR
4. **Zora Folley**, Chandler, AZ
5. **Henry Cooper**, England
6. **Mike DeJohn**, Syracuse, NY
7. **Robert Cleroux**, Canada
8. **Alex Miteff**, Argentina
9. **Dick Richardson**, Wales
10. **Billy Hunter**, Detroit, MI

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Archie Moore, San Diego, CA

1. **Chic Calderwood**, Scotland
2. **Giulio Rinaldi**, Italy
3. **Harold Johnson**, Philadelphia, PA
4. **Erich Schoppner**, Germany
5. **Willie Pastrano**, Miami, FL
6. **Doug Jones**, New York, NY
7. **Mike Holt**, South Africa
8. **Bobo Olson**, Portland, OR
9. **Johnny Halafihi**, Tonga
10. **Jesse Bowdry**, St. Louis, MO

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Paul Pender, Brookline, MA

1. **Gene Fullmer**, West Jordan, UT
2. **Gustav Scholz**, Germany
3. **Hank Casey**, Richmond, CA
4. **Joey Giardello**, Philadelphia, PA
5. **Ray Robinson**, New York, NY
6. **Joey Giambra**, San Francisco, CA
7. **Terry Downes**, England
8. **Don Fullmer**, West Jordan, UT
9. **Henry Hank**, Detroit, MI
10. **Ace Armstrong**, Elizabeth, NJ

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Benny Paret, Cuba

1. **Luis Rodriguez**, Cuba
2. **Federico Thompson**, Argentina
3. **Ralph Dupas**, New Orleans, LA
4. **Emile Griffith**, New York, NY
5. **Denny Moyer**, Portland, OR
6. **Duilio Loi**, Italy
7. **Florentino Fernandez**, Cuba
8. **Don Jordan**, Los Angeles, CA
9. **Jorge Fernandez**, Argentina
10. **Gaspar Ortega**, Mexico

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joe Brown, Baton Rouge, LA

1. **Dave Charnley**, England
2. **Carlos Ortiz**, New York, NY
3. **Len Matthews**, Philadelphia, PA
4. **Carlos Hernandez**, Venezuela
5. **Flash Elorde**, Philippines
6. **Eddie Perkins**, Chicago, IL
7. **Kenny Lane**, Muskegon, MI
8. **Cisco Andrade**, Compton, CA
9. **Battling Torres**, Mexico
10. **Solomon Boysaw**, Cleveland, OH

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Davey Moore, Springfield, OH

1. **Gracieux Lamperti**, France
2. **Sugar Ramos**, Cuba
3. **Sergio Caprari**, Italy
4. **Percy Lewis**, Trinidad, BWI
5. **Rafiu King**, Nigeria
6. **Ray Nobile**, Italy
7. **Felix Cervantes**, Los Angeles, CA
8. **Terry Spinks**, England
9. **Juan Ramirez**, Mexico
10. **Danny Valdez**, Los Angeles, CA

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Title Vacant

1. **Eder Jofre**, Brazil
2. **Alphonse Halimi**, France
3. **Piero Rollo**, Italy
4. **Freddie Gilroy**, Ireland
5. **Kenji Onekura**, Japan
6. **Joe Medel**, Mexico
7. **Jose Lopez**, Mexico
8. **Eloy Sanchez**, Mexico
9. **Leo Espinosa**, Philippines
10. **Nelson Estrada**, Venezuela

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Pone Kingpetch, Thailand

1. **Mimun Ben Ali**, Spain
2. **Pascual Perez**, Argentina
3. **Sadao Yaoita**, Japan
4. **Johnny Caldwell**, Ireland
5. **Mitsunori Seki**, Japan
6. **Edmundo Esparza**, Mexico
7. **Dommy Ursua**, Stockton, CA
8. **Risto Luukkonen**, Finland
9. **Ramon Arias**, Venezuela
10. **Leo Zulueta**, Philippines

Willard down seven times in the first round. Jess was battered so badly, he quit during the intermission between the third and fourth rounds.

Another giant was Primo Carnera. Discovered in the side show of a European circus, he was a legitimate freak. As a fighter, Carnera was a build-up, nothing else. In the natural course of events, he became a wrestler.

Eventually, "Da Preem" succeeded in winning the heavyweight title from Jack Sharkey. And he was slaughtered while losing it to Max Baer, boxing's clown prince. The fun-loving Baer might have been the greatest of all heavyweight champions had he trained and taken his boxing seriously. The experts said he would be champion for 10 years, but 12 months after he won the title, Max lost it to a hungry James J. Braddock, who had known poverty and was fresh from the relief rolls. Max was a playboy, Braddock a serious man with a definite aim.

Carnera was 6'5¾". While shorter than Willard, he was heavier, weighing 267. In retrospect it seems ridiculous, but one of Primo's title defenses was against Tommy Loughran, the light heavyweight champion.

Loughran was one of the pretty boys, a handsome man. Another with a John Barrymore profile was Billy Conn, the kid from Pittsburgh. Conn was a light heavyweight champion, too, and like Loughran, aspired to the heavyweight throne. Joe Louis knocked out Conn twice, but the first time Bomber Joe trailed Billy going into the 13th round.

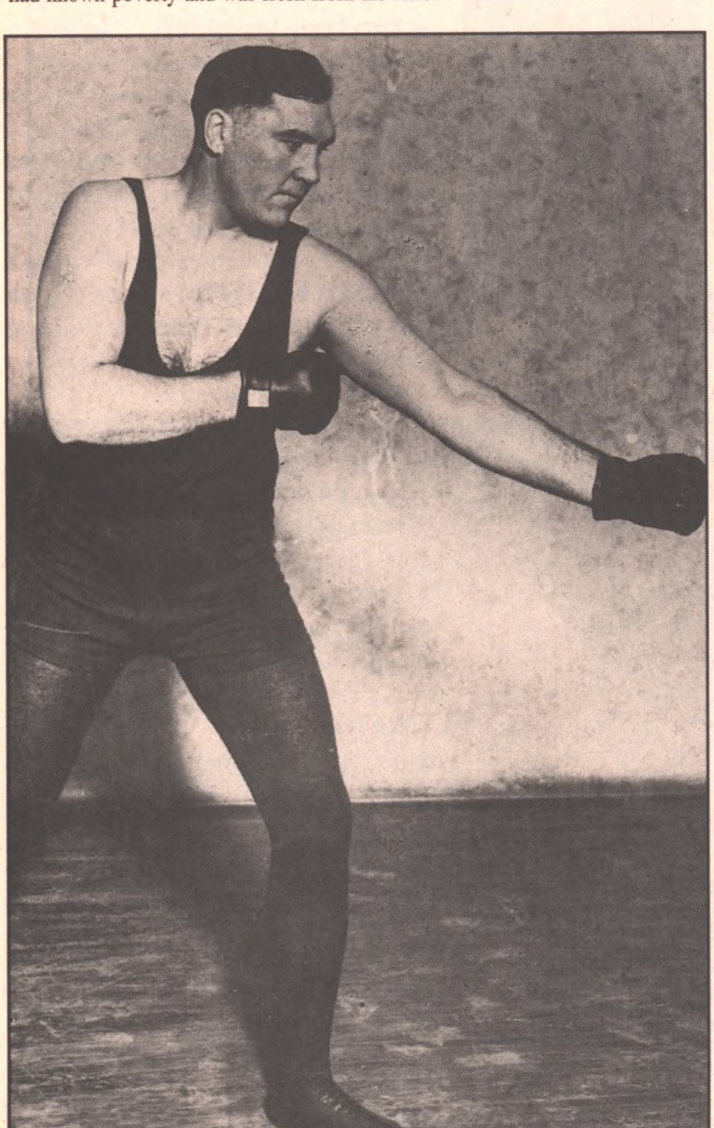
Like Dempsey, Louis was a perfect fighting man. And like Jack, Joe had his troubles with the freaks.

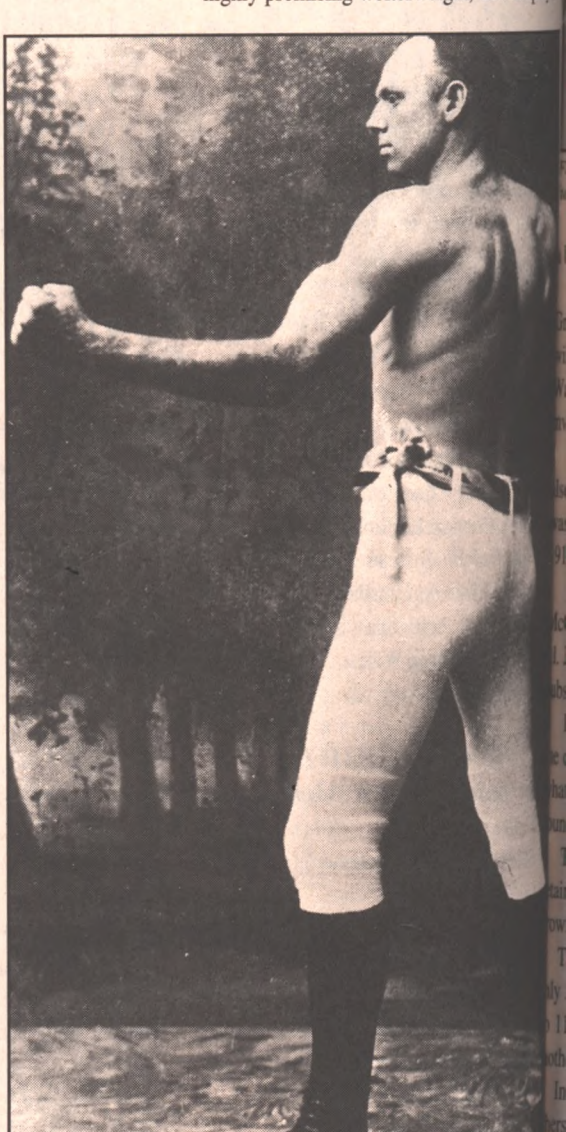
Willie Meehan, a fat man, used to sl... Dempsey around. In addition to having ... troubles with Galento, Louis let a crouchi... Arturo Godoy last 15 rounds.

Louis had difficulty with the giants, t... except Carnera. Abe Simon lasted 13 rounds w... him at Detroit, and Buddy Baer stood him on h... head outside the ropes at Washington, but Joe g... back to win in seven rounds. The fight ended in ... disqualification when Buddy refused to answ... the bell.

To return to the pretty boys, there w... Corbett, boxing's first gentleman, a highly skille... boxer who knocked out John L. Sullivan t... become heavyweight champion. He in turn w... knocked out by Fitzsimmons.

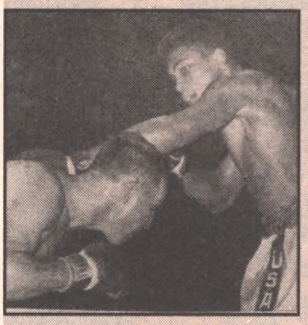
And there was handsome Tony Janiro, ... highly promising welterweight, now employed ...



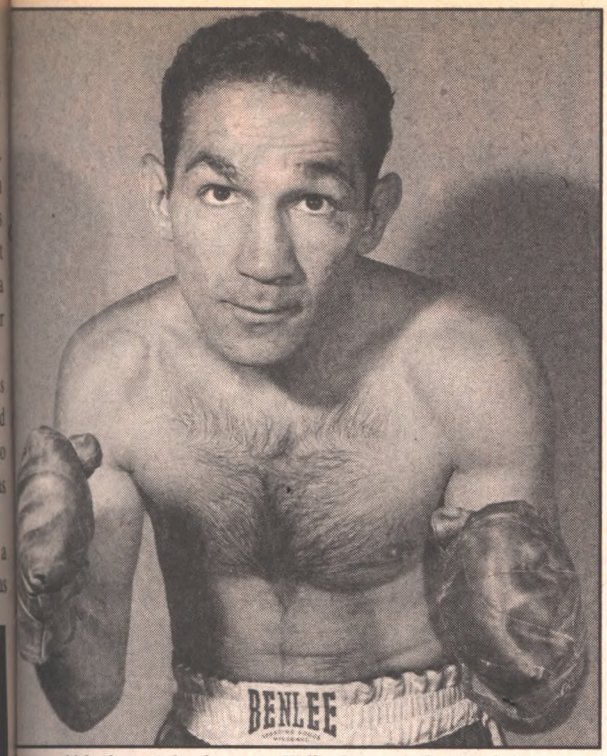


Left: Jess Willard, "The Pottawatomie Giant," stood 6'6¼" and was the first giant heavyweight to win the world title. Right: Triple-crown champion Fitzsimmons had the legs of a lightweight and the upper body of a heavyweight. He won titles at middleweight, heavyweight, and light heavyweight.

The Cover: Featured are the latest personalities inducted into THE RING Hall of Fame, including Jack Britton, Johnny Kilbane, Freddie Welsh, Joe Choynski, Tommy Burns, and Dan Donnelly. Also: Lightweight champion Joe Brown's defense against Cisco Andrade.



Clay's Day: Buried on page 65, under the heading "Louisville Boxing News": "Olympic light heavyweight champion Cassius Clay, 186, finished his first professional fight with a six-round win over Tunney Hunsaker, 192, of Fayetteville, W. Va. Clay came in at his heaviest ever, but was the master throughout. Neither fighter ever had the other in trouble and gave the crowd of 6,181 little over which to cheer."



...mer world featherweight champion Willie Pep was short and slender and ...d lightning speed. "Willie The Wisp" won 62 straight fights.

...rtender in a New York pub known as the Neutral Corner.

Of course no list of freaks would be complete without including Joe ...m. He made his living on his ability to take punishment. Grim stayed ...h the best of 'em, among them Fitzsimmons, Jeffries, the original Joe ...lcott, and Jack Blackburn. Neither weight nor skill appeared to have been ...olved. He also went the distance with Joe Gans.

Most of Grim's fights were of six- and 10-round duration. They were ... mostly of the no-decision variety. He fought more than 300 times and ... knocked out only three times. His career spanned 11 years, from 1902 to ...3.

Another one who could take it was Al McCoy, the "Cheese Champion." ...Coy was just lucky. He was matched with Joe Chip, but the latter became ...oe's brother, George Chip, the world middleweight champion, agreed to ...stitute.

It seemed a safe venture. The fight took place in the no-decision era, and ... only way George could lose the title was to be knocked out. That is just ...t happened. McCoy, a southpaw, tagged and stretched the champion in a ...nd.

This happened in 1914. By sticking to no-decision contests, McCoy ...ined the title, while taking his lumps, for three years. In 1917, he lost the ...wn when he was knocked out by Mike O'Dowd.

The shortest of heavyweight champions was Tommy Burns, who stood ...y 5'7". On the other hand, Panama Al Brown was close to 6', and able to ... 118 pounds. He ruled as world bantamweight champion. Joe Lynch, ...ther champion, was particularly tall for a bantamweight.

Indeed, fighting men come in all shapes and all sizes. Some are fat, ...rs lean. Some are short, others tall.

It matters not what division; each has had its freaks and its clowns. ...ng the latter, Max Baer and Maxie Rosenbloom, light heavyweight ... stood out. Each, after retirement, was a hit as a nightclub entertainer. ■

Brown And The Lightweights: Having made nine successful defenses in less than 4½ years, lightweight champion Joe Brown has contributed to the glorious history of the 135-pound division. Jersey Jones looks at Brown and some of the other great lightweights, including Benny Leonard and Freddie Welsh.

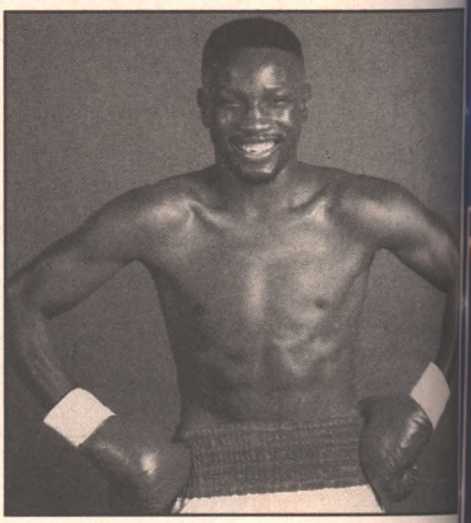
The Bouncing Banties: Historian Lew Eskin examines the history of the bantamweight division, which has often had dual champions. There are currently two title claimants, Eder Jofre (pictured) and Alphonse Halimi. Boxing insiders are looking forward to a unification battle in the near-future.

Fighters Of The Month: The world's top-rated bantamweights are co-winners. Eder Jofre, who became NBA champion by defeating Eloy Sanchez, shares the honor with Alphonse Halimi (pictured), who won the European title by topping Freddie Gilroy.

LOOKING AHEAD

By Steve Farhood

"SWEET PEA'S" SCHEDULE

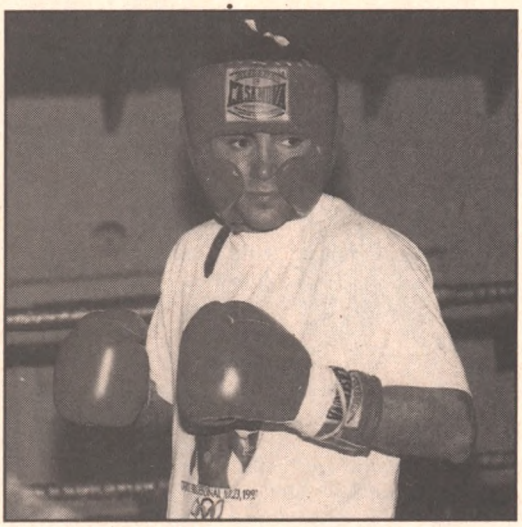


Whitaker: No gimmes

Say this for WBC welterweight champion Pernell Whitaker: When the world's best fighter says he wants only the toughest fights, he means it. Look for Whitaker to next climb through the ropes on March 4, in a bout to be televised by HBO. In a surprise, his opponent just might be WBA *junior middleweight* champion Julio Cesar Vasquez, a southpaw from Argentina who has made 10 successful defenses. If Main Events, Whitaker's promoter, can't close the bout in time, "Sweet Pea" will make a mandatory defense against British southpaw Gary Jacobs.

Later this year, Whitaker will unify two-thirds of the 147-pound title by clashing with powerpunching WBA champion Ike "Bazooka" Quartey. "It's already a done deal," Dino Duva, a vice president of Main Events, told THE RING. Quartey will first have to get by mandatory challenger Andrew Murray of Guyana.

On the heavyweight front, Duva reported that a trio of comebacking heavyweights, Lennox Lewis, Michael Moorer, and Evander Holyfield (assuming he gets full medical clearance), will be fighting in April, possibly on the same card. Should "The Real Deal" indeed return, longtime manager Shelly Finkel won't be part of the team. Finkel wants Holyfield to stay retired.



De La Hoya: Tough comp ahead

A HEADS UP DOUBLEHEADER

If all the pieces fall together, Bob Arum will promote a most intriguing doubleheader in Las Vegas on February 18, to be televised by HBO. The plan calls for Oscar De La Hoya to defend the lightly regarded WBO lightweight title against longtime IBF junior lightweight king John-John Molina, and WBA [illegible] heavyweight champion Virgil Hill to defend against two-division former titlist James Toney.

"All I remember," Toney told THE RING, "is all [Hill's] talk in the papers. I'm gonna break that bitch's ass. He can run, but once he gets hit a couple of times, the whole thing's gonna change. I'll slow him down with bodyshots."

LISTEN UP

Don't expect newly crowned WBA/IBF heavyweight champion George **Foreman** to sit around and wait for a $100-million showdown with Mike Tyson. Foreman wants a fight in April or May. The most likely opponent: the unbeaten (29-0 with 24 kayos) but unproven **Lou Savarese**. The most likely site: either the Astrodome (Houston) or the Superdome (New Orleans). When asked to comment on Savarese's soft opposition, manager **Bob Spagnola** said, "I learned long ago, when I saw **Darrin Van Horn** beat **Robert Hines** for the junior middleweight title, that you don't have to fight anybody."

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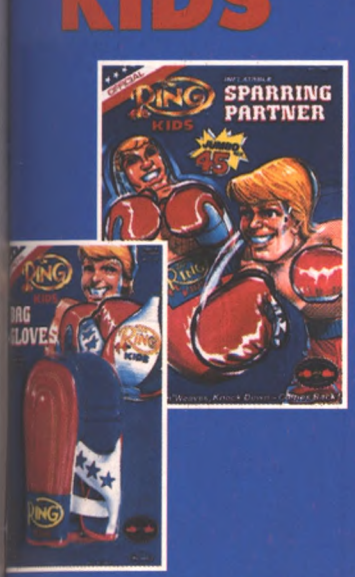

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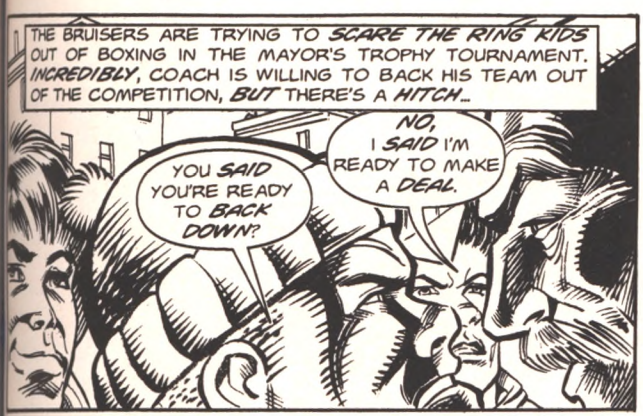

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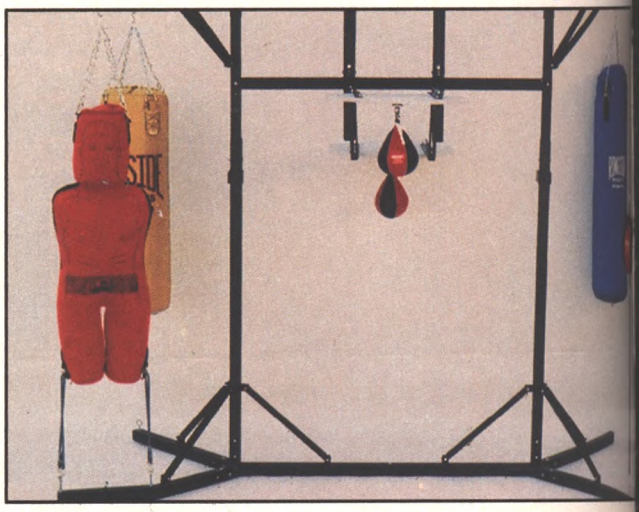

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